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ARAB TIMES



MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 1989/ MOHARRAM 6, 1410 AH

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20 PAGES 150 FILS

Kuwaitis held in Saudi haj probe

KUWAIT, Aug 6. (Agencies): Saudi Arabia has detained a number of Kuwaiti pilgrims for interrogation in connection with two bomb explosions in Makkah during the haj last month,

the Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Abdul-Rahman Al Awadi, said today.

HH the Amir of Kuwait is personally interested in following up the detention by Saudi authorities

of some Kuwaiti pilgrims being investigated for alleged involvement in incidents that occurred in the Holy City of Makkah during the recent haj.

A verbal message to this effect from HH the

Amir to his brother the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz was conveyed by Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Saturday.

Bhutto colleague arrested in Punjab; bombs kill 4 — See Page 2

Egypt denies it has chems

CAIRO, Aug 6. (Reuters): Egyptian Defence Minister Youssif Sabri Abu Taleb has categorically denied that his country possesses chemical weapons or intends to manufacture them.

"We insist and we ensure that we don't have and do not intend to have these chemical weapons," Abu Taleb told Reuters and the international television agency Visnews shortly before leaving on his first visit to the United States as Egypt's top soldier.

Abu Taleb, 60, was appointed defence minister and commander-in-chief of Egypt's armed forces in April in a move that took many diplomats and political observers by surprise.

US media had linked his replacement of Abdel-Halim Abu Ghazala with reports that Washington's main Arab ally was developing new poison gases and long-range missiles and was involved in alleged attempts to obtain US secrets illegally.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazala had long been regarded as the second most powerful man in Egypt after President Mubarak. He was also known as staunchly pro-American.

His successor, a career soldier with a reputation for skillful management, was to begin talks today with US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney on ways of strengthening already close defence ties between the two countries.

In Wednesday's interview, Abu Taleb said Egypt was against missile proliferation, but said those with a range of more than 300 or 450 km (200 or 300 miles) should come "within a regional arms control package embracing nuclear and chemical weapons."

He made no direct reference to Israel, which is widely believed to have nuclear warheads and the means to deliver them.

The general was asked if US-Egyptian ties were marred by the conviction by a Cairo court of US nationals for spying as well as US charges of attempts to illegally export sensitive American missile technology to Egypt.

"I don't think anything should cloud any relations ... we never interfere in the internal affairs of any countries," he said, adding that it was the right of both Egypt and the United States to act as they saw fit to protect their security.

Sam Youssif Ibrahim Wassef was sentenced in Cairo last week to 10 years for spying for the US Central Intelligence Agency. Egyptian-born but raised in the United States, Wassef said he was a victim of trumped-up charges aimed at swapping him for Abdel Kader Helmi.

Abu Taleb, an Egyptian-born American who faces US charges of trying to smuggle missile technology to Egypt.

Abu Taleb stressed what he saw as the strength of relations between the two countries.

"I believe the relationship is very strong now. We were full partners in the peace process ... I do believe our mutual interest are peace, security, stability and democracy."



'Radical' with roots

Father and mother of Sheikh Abd Karim Obeid, who was kidnapped from his southern Lebanese village of Jibsheet by an Israeli commando team. His children Sajeda, 4,

Sajed, 7, Mushtabah, 3, and Mujahed, 6, sit in front of their grandparents' home village. (Reuters wirephoto)

— See Roads to Roadblocks — Page 6.



Sheikh Omar jailed

Sheikh Omar Abd-Rahman, stands behind wire bars in a Cairo State security court. (Reuters wirephoto)

(Story on Page 7)

Fire guts paper plant

By Nashat Al Agha

A **HUGE** fire broke out Sunday noon at a large paper manufacturing company in Mina Abdulla industrial area, 60 km south of Kuwait city. Twenty-five fire engines from five fire-fighting centres took part in extinguishing the fire which was still going on till late last night. The fire broke out at 2.00 pm.

The fire totally damaged the company stores containing paper and other chemical materials.

Three workers of the firm were reported to have been injured and were taken to hospital for treatment. The firemen were fighting to protect the adminis-

tration of the company, as most of the store sheds vanished. Responsible sources put the damages at more than KD500,000 and added it may well reach KD1 million.

Bad weather and strong north westerly winds, which caused dust in Kuwait yesterday, helped the fire quickly spread to all stores.

Director-General of the Fire Department, Brig. Ahmad Al Abdulla and other Fire Department senior officials rushed to the scene and supervised putting off the fire.

Director of Fire Fighting, Musa Al Mulla said last evening that the fire was under control but he added that it may

require 6 more hours to be put off completely.

He said that the causes of the fire were not immediately known and an investigation committee has been set up.

Acting general manager of the company, Faisal Al Eidan said that storing at the company was done properly, adding he was expecting more effort from the Fire Department.

A number of Ministry of Health ambulances also rushed to the scene and rescued three workers. There is a very important oil exporting port, but the industrial area, where the fire broke out, is far away.

Director of Fire Fighting, Musa Al Mulla said last evening that the fire was under control but he added that it may

(See picture Page 9)

Top clerics confirm Khamenei as Iranian 'leader'

NICOSIA, Aug 6. (Reuters): Top clerics confirmed outgoing President Ali Khamenei as Iran's new supreme leader today amid signs of dissent within the government.

Hardline Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi issued an apparent challenge to Khamenei's successor as President, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, saying he could not take office until Khamenei had quit.

Despite official reports that Rafsanjani was

sworn in as President on Thursday, Mohtashemi told IRNA news agency: "Legally His Excellency Ayatollah Khamenei is the President until the end of his term on October 9."

"This is unless he resigns from this post before that date and Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani reads the presidential oath in the Majlis (Parliament) and officially starts work."

Top clerics grouped in the assembly of experts first met on June 4, the day after Ayatollah

Khomeini's death, to choose Khamenei as his successor by a four-fifths majority.

IRNA said the clerics met to reaffirm Khamenei following constitutional changes approved in a referendum on July 28, the same day as the presidential election.

The changes reduce the religious qualifications required by the supreme leader and greatly increase the powers of the presidency, abolishing the post of prime minister.

(Continued on Page 6)



Two-year-old Rouba Azar lies in East Beirut hospital morgue. She drowned with her one-year-old sister when Syrian shells capsized their boat packed with refugees fleeing the carnage in Lebanon. (Reuters wirephoto)

DAY BY DAY

THE pathetic situation of Gulf tourists in London which is witnessing a heat wave, reminds me of a near similar scenario of Gulf people prior to the pre-oil era and before the introduction of air-conditioners.

Buildings in the foggy capital are designed only for winter and not for summer. These tourists spent over two weeks in London and other European capitals to escape the Gulf heat — only to end up in the streets searching for an air-conditioned place and praying incessantly for rains or cold north winds.

Poignantly they were also reminiscing about their old days before the discovery of oil made air-conditioning possible, particularly the older folks. The grass is not always greener on the other side of the fence.

Zahed Matar

PLO pound

TUNIS, Aug 6. (AP): Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement adopted a proposal today to establish a Palestinian currency, backed by gold donated by PLO supporters, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

The agency said the roughly 1,000 delegates to Fatah's fifth General Congress voted unanimously in favour of the idea presented by Arafat, who is chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and of Fatah's central committee.

It said Palestinians would be asked to give a gold ring or some other gold object to constitute reserves for the currency, to be called the Palestinian pound.

(See Page 7)

INTERNATIONAL

54 killed in Sri Lanka

Second monk assassinated

COLOMBO, Aug 6. (Reuters): Fifty-four people, including a senior Buddhist monk, have been killed in Sri Lanka in the past two days by left-wing rebels and pro-government militia, military sources said today.

The sources said Pokuru Banda Hemaloka — chief priest of a temple at Puttalam, 120 km (75 miles) north of Colombo — was the second Buddhist monk to be killed by the leftist People's Liberation Front. They could give no reason for the killing.

The front on Thursday shot dead a 72-year-old priest who praised President Ranasinghe Premadasa last week for averting a confrontation with India on the withdrawal of Indian troops.

The People's Liberation Front, through a campaign of killings and general strikes, is trying to wrest power from Premadasa's government.

PPP leader in detention

Bombs kill four

LAHORE, Aug 6. (Agencies): A senior member of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was arrested in the opposition-ruled Punjab today, deepening the rift between her government and the opposition.

Punjab police said Salman Taseer, deputy PPP leader in the provincial assembly, was detained in Lahore. A police spokesman told the PPI news agency that Taseer was accused of incitement to violence in a speech he had made in January.

The incident was seen in Pakistani political circles as linked to the hostility between Bhutto's federal government in Islamabad and Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Since their election victories last November, Benazir and Sharif have been barely on speaking terms and co-operation between federal and Punjab authorities has been minimal. More than half Pakistan's 105 million people live in the province.

Under the Pakistani system the police are controlled by the four provincial governments.

Political analysts said Taseer's arrest was certain to be interpreted as retaliation for the detention of an opposition leader in the PPP-ruled North West Frontier Province on July 22.

Retired General Fazle Haq was arrested in an investigation into the murder a year ago of a prominent Shiite Muslim leader.

He has denied responsibility and the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance accused the PPP of using the case for political persecution, a charge denied by Benazir's government.

In Islamabad, the Federal Investigation Agency arrested the editor of the opposition Pakistan Observer newspaper today.

A government spokesman said Zahid Malik was detained in connection with a book he had written on Pakistan's alleged nuclear bomb programme and not because of his newspaper's political views.

Taseer, a close friend of the Benazir family, had been threatened with arrest for some months over his allegedly illegal



Benazir Bhutto

demolition of a wall near his Lahore home.

He had successfully applied for pre-arrest bail and was leaving court this morning after winning another extension when police detained him on the other, more serious matter.

Under Pakistani law a suspect can be detained well in advance of formal charges.

Four people died and 63 people were wounded today when separate bomb explosions jolted two Pakistani cities, 120 miles (190 kilometres) apart.

A powerful bomb hidden in a potato crate exploded at a vegetable market of Pakistan's frontier city of Peshawar, killing four and wounding 31, police said.

Hospital officials said 10 of the wounded were treated for minor injuries and later released.

In Rawalpindi, outside the nation's capital of Islamabad, 37 people were injured when two bombs about a mile (1.6 kilometers) from each other ripped through a crowded market area, hospital sources said.

Windows in nearby buildings shattered and scores of mid-afternoon shoppers fled in panic, said eyewitnesses.

"There was a big blast and people started running everywhere trying to find a place to hide," said Abdul Salam, who was treated for facial cuts from flying shrapnel.

Hospital officials said two of the blasts in the two cities were connected. No group immediately claimed responsibility for either.

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Breaking records

R Muthukumar, 57, a former milkman from Tamil Nadu, India cools himself down with a bucket of water in a non-stop cycling event held during a carnival in the beach resort of Port Dickson, Malaysia, yesterday. Muthukumar cycled non stop for 126 hours to better the 12-hour mark which is in the Guinness Book of World Records. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bard and bowlers

ROME, Aug 6. (AP): The official Libyan news agency criticised the British media today for ridiculing Col. Moammar Khaddafi's contention that William Shakespeare was of Arab origin.

Jana, monitored in Rome, also said that any Arab ties to Shakespeare would not increase Arab prestige but would be instead "an honour to the British and Shakespeare himself and his family."

"The smell of chauvinism seems to have overwhelmed the atmosphere of the talk broadcast by the British radio on the historical view regarding the attribution of the name of Shakespeare to Arab origins as put forward by brother Moammar Khaddafi," Jana said in a dispatch titled "Shakespeare: is he Arab?"

The agency said the British media should have used "scientific analysis" in discussing Shakespeare's origins, rather than "throwing insults and defamation and using description against others no civilised mind would accept."



Sportive look

US rock star La Tova Jackson sports a Soviet Army hat during a tour of Red Square before this weekend's Music Summit rock festival. (Reuters wirephoto)

8 more drown in Bangladesh, death toll rises to 200

DHAKA, Aug 6. (Reuters): Eight more people have drowned, and the death toll nears 200 as floods cut off 500,000 Bangladeshis.

Other areas flooded by the rain-swollen Kishuara river included the Balaganj, Feni-chaganj and Baniabazar areas of the tea-growing Sylhet district.

"The courage of the people and the sincerity of the government helped us survive a much worse flooding last year. We shall face it boldly this year too,"

President Hossain Mohammad Ershad said during a visit to Zakkiganj yesterday.

State television showed the president travelling on a military vessel and reassuring marooned villagers that no one would starve or die for lack of medical care.

More than 3,000 people took shelter in makeshift camps but local officials said food and other supplies were inadequate.

"Dozens of remote villages have been cut off for days with people trapped in houses waist or shoulder-deep in water."

one official said. Shortages of drinking water have caused many to come down with diarrhoea in some of the stricken areas, he added.

The flood control centre in Dhaka said more than 100,000 people were driven from their homes by the floods in 11 north-eastern and central districts.

Floods in 1988, the worst for 40 years, killed at least 3,000, made millions homeless and destroyed three million tonnes of

rice.

A landslide buried about 45 bus passengers who were clearing boulders blocking a remote mountain road in northern India yesterday, news reports said.

State-run television said at least 22 bodies had been recovered. Rescuers were using bulldozers, Press Trust of India said.

All those buried were feared dead, the agency reported. It also said 15 people were hospitalised.

ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 1989

FOCUS

F-16 sale outlined

US-Pakistan deal urged

WASHINGTON, Aug 6: The Bush administration says its proposed \$1.5 billion sale of 60 F-16 A/B interceptors to Pakistan would "maintain a rough balance" between Pakistan and India air power.

Teresita C. Schaffer, deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, appearing before a joint meeting of the Subcommittee on Arms Control, International Security and Science and the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, said the request from the government of Pakistan in October 1988 was considered against "a range of relevant factors" before the department agreed to the sale. She said those factors included:

- The impact of selling or not selling on Pakistan's security and development.
- Pakistan's improving relations with India.
- The risks of conventional and nuclear arms proliferation in the region.
- The new democratic government in Pakistan and US relations with Pakistan.

"We have been very pleased with the improved relations between India and Pakistan," Schaffer said in response to questions by Stephen Solarz, chairman of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, on the impact of the sale on Pakistan-India relations.

We believe that a more confident Pakistan with a reasonable defensive capability will be better able to negotiate the kind of fair and lasting agreements with India which will reduce the chances of war."

Schaffer said "the great bulk" of the \$1.5 billion package will be covered by funds already earmarked for an aircraft that US and Pakistan had intended to coproduce some years ago.

In the new government's budget for 1989-90, defence is allotted a small nominal increase, which represents a substantial decrease in real terms. In contrast, spending on education is up 68 per cent and health 26 per cent.

A people's development structure has been erected and allocated \$143 million the first year to ensure that development monies are spread widely at the grass roots.

The government of India has expressed its concern about our intention to sell more F-16s to Pakistan.

We have considered India's views very carefully, but feel that a sale of 60 F-16 A/B's will not contribute to an escalation of military technology on the subcontinent, change the military balance, nor destabilise the region.

On the contrary, we believe that a more confident Pakistan with a reasonable defensive capability will be better able to negotiate the kind of fair and lasting agreements with India which will reduce the chances of war between them. I would note that the Indian and Pakistani prime ministers have continued their efforts to improve relations since the administration formally notified Congress of this sale.

We believe also that our own good relations with India are sustained by a growing range of mutual interests. Growing ties in trade and high technology occupy an increasingly important place in our bilateral dialogue.

We do not consider our relations with India and Pakistan to be zero-sum game. I believe that the GOI understands this position and would agree that Indo-US relations should not be defined predominantly in terms of our relations with Pakistan, the Soviet Union, or any other country.

We have heard concerns expressed that the sale of F-16 to Pakistan could increase the dangers of nuclear proliferation on the subcontinent. We believe the opposite is true. None of the F-16s Pakistan already owns or is about to purchase is configured for nuclear delivery.

Pakistan, moreover, will be obligated contractually not to modify its new acquisitions without the approval of the US. More importantly, a Pakistan with credible conventional deterrent will be less motivated to pursue a nuclear weapons capability.

The establishment of democracy in Pakistan after more than a decade of military rule is, we believe, one of the most important events in modern Pakistani and South Asian history. The United States should do all it can to support and strengthen these democratic institutions and their civilian leadership.

Our willingness to co-operate with the new government's efforts to modernise its fighter force will contribute to Pakistan's sense of security and assure the Pakistani public that the country's defence needs can be met effectively by a civilian and democratic government.

In May the State Department consulted informally with a number of members and staff in both the House and Senate. Our conclusion from those consultations was that there is broad-based support in Congress for the sale of this major weapons system as one indication of US support for the new democratic government of Pakistan. In early June Prime Minister Bhutto visited Washington.

In his address before a joint meeting of Congress and in discussions with high-level administration officials she spoke of a new partnership with the United States based on shared democratic and developmental values and on a growing range of common interests.

She reassured Pakistan's commitment to working with the United States in supporting the Afghan resistance, assisting the millions of Afghan refugees, suppressing the illicit drug trade, and preventing nuclear proliferation.

She stated that US military assistance to Pakistan has contributed to peace and stability in South Asia.

India bans cricket stars

(Continued from Page 1)

The two are currently playing Summer League cricket in England.

PTI said today's decision came at the end of a two-day sitting by the six-member disciplinary committee headed by board President Bishwanath Dutt.

She subsequently reviewed the situation again, carefully, from the standpoints of regional relations and affordability. She reaffirmed her earlier decision and communicated it to the discussed this decision before her visit here in June. We have discussed this decision in detail with a number of Pakistan authorities.

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Balloon crash kills pilot as thousands watch

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana, Aug 6, (AP): A balloon deflated and plunged about 2,000 feet (600 metres) to the ground yesterday evening at the national hot air balloon championships, killing its lone occupant as thousands of spectators watched.

Robert Mock, 52, of Paonia, Colorado, died at Our Lady of The Lake Medical Centre about an hour after the 5:55 p.m. accident, said a nursing supervisor who refused to give her name.

The cause of the accident was not known, but

witnesses said Mock's balloon suddenly deflated and plunged to the ground.

Mock apparently turned the burner off at that point to prevent a fire on impact, Jim Birk director of the ballooning championships said.

Mock told his ground crew by radio that the flaps on his balloon were loose, and he apparently tried to compensate by pumping more hot air into the balloon, said East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Capt Robert Shorter.

"At that point, the balloon collapsed and he plunged approximately 2,000 feet (600 metres)," Shorter said.

Parachutes aren't required and a fire extinguisher is the only safety equipment carried in gondolas.

"At many times, there is little the pilot can do to retard a fall," he said.

Yesterday was the second day of the gathering of hot-air balloonists. The championships end Aug 13. It was the first fatal accident in the national championships' 19-year history, Birk said.

Crime in America still climbing: FBI

More murders and rapes

WASHINGTON, Aug 6, (UPI): Crime across America jumped 3 per cent last year — rising to more than five offences for every 100 US residents — with murder and rapes increasing more than cases of arson and theft, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said today.

In its annual "Crime in the United States" report, the FBI not only compared figures to 1987 but also showed the number of crimes known to law-enforcement authorities was 17 per cent higher than five years ago and 14 per cent above the level a decade ago.

Violent crime was up 6 per cent overall from 1987, with each offence in that category increasing. Property crime such as arson, larceny and motor vehicle theft climbed a slower 3 per cent, and burglary even declined slightly.

An estimated 13.8 million arrests were made for all crimes other than traffic violations, a 1 per cent increase from 1987, the FBI said. Authorities resolved 46 percent of the violent crimes but just 18 per cent of property crimes for an overall record of one resolution in every five cases.

Among the highlights of the bureau's report:

Murder rate

The murder rate was eight per every 100,000 US residents, for an estimated 20,675 victims. Murder was up 3 per cent from 1987, 11 per cent from 1984, but down 4 per cent from a decade ago in 1979. Three-quarters of the victims were male, half were white, 91 per cent were age 18 or older and more than half of them were related to or acquainted with their assailants. Guns were used for about three of every five killings.

Rapes

Reported rapes totalled 92,486 last year, up 2 per cent from 1987, 10 per cent from 1984 and 21 per cent from 1979. An estimated 73 of every 100,000 women in the country were reported victims. More than half of the cases were resolved, with half of those arrested being white and 41 per cent under age 25.

Assaults

Aggravated assaults totalled 910,092, up 6 per cent from 1987, 33 per cent from 1984 and 45 per cent from 1979. They accounted for more than half of all reported violent crimes and the highest totals came in July and August. Blunt objects or other dangerous weapons were used in 31 per cent of the cases.

Robbery

There were more than half-million cases of robbery, up 5 per cent from 1987, 12 per cent from 1984 and 13 per cent from 1979. For a total estimated national loss

Resort's power cut off

Chaos on boardwalk

SEASIDE HEIGHTS, New Jersey, Aug 6, (UPI): A power blackout emptied bars on the boardwalk and touched off three hours of fighting, window-breaking and "chaos" among up to 20,000 people at the seaside resort early yesterday, police said.

Fighting broke out, store windows were smashed and several vehicle pileups were reported in the "chaos" that lasted about three hours, as parties streamed from taverns filled to capacity onto the boardwalk when the fights went out, police spokesman Ray Shackmann said.

People were stranded mid-air on casino pier amusement rides when a fire in a power substation knocked out the resort's electricity at 12:52 a.m.

Police estimated between 15,000 to 20,000 people were on the Boardwalk at around 1:30 a.m., but reported no major injuries on the ride or in the rioting.

"Many of the problems were caused by people who had consumed too much alcohol through course of the evening," Shackmann said, adding that 25 people were arrested on charges of disorderly conduct and alcohol-related violations.

The major problem was the number of people. At first, there was an uncontrollable amount of people and cars everywhere due to the small amount of police officers in the bureau at that time," Shackmann said.

About 200 law officers from 54 neighbouring county police departments, including 14 departments with police dogs, helped Seaside Heights police quell the disturbance, Shackmann said. Seven fire departments and 13 first-aid stations from local beaches were also on hand.

Officers from at least six police departments remained in the resort area yesterday morning.

Shackmann said police were able to set up an emergency command post outside the police station when the power failure left them with a emergency-use phone and no electricity.

Police at first described the disturbance as a riot, but at a afternoon news conference preferred the terms "pandemonium" and "chaos" to describe events.

The fire-caused power failure knocked out electricity at 12:52 a.m. to over 6,000 customers, said Jim Lowney, spokesman for Jersey Central Power and Light Co. All power to the affected communities was expected to be restored by 8 p.m., he said.

Of \$343 million, firearms were used in 33 per cent of the cases, robberies on streets and highways accounted for more than half of the cases and convenience store robberies showed the greatest increase since 1987.

Last year 78 law enforcement officers were slain by criminals in the line of duty. Another 77 were killed in accidents while performing official duties.

The FBI said its figures showed a 3 per cent increase in crimes across America to 13.9 million offences in 1988. It said the 1988 total represented an average of more than 5,600 offences for each 100,000 people living in the United States.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

NEW YORK: Rock Star Billie Joe says he no longer cares for his early 1970s cult hit "Captain Jack" or his popular song "My Life," which he describes as childishly redundant.

"My Life" is a song that turned out sour for me... just like some of your kids turn into bums," he told a master class at the performing arts centre of Long Island University.

"Captain Jack," a song about adolescent drug abuse, "kind of burned me out quick," he added.

The master class was open to the public and included Art Garfunkel, who once was his professional career, not his private life, was the topic of the day.

"Usually, somebody wants to know, 'what does Christie look like in the morning?'" he said, referring to his wife, model Christie Brinkley. "She looks good, so let's get that out of the way."

ATLANTA: Rob Lowe's insurance company says the actor's liability insurance doesn't cover sex tapes.

Chubb Custom Insurance Co. of New Jersey filed papers in US District Court asking a judge to free it of any obligation for claims in the lawsuit over Lowe's alleged videotaping of a sex act involving a teen-age girl.

Lowe is being sued by Lee A. Wilson for allegedly videotaping her daughter, Jan Parsons, then 16, in a sex act with another female while Lowe was in Atlanta for the 1988 democratic convention.

Court documents indicated Lowe wrote Chubb on June 7 claiming his \$300,000 personal liability insurance policy requires the company to "provide a defence and to pay any judgement which might be returned" against him.

Lowe, star of several movies including *St Elmo's Fire*, was covered for any bodily injury he caused another person and any damages as a result of any injury, but now "damage which is either expected or intended" the company said (AP).

NEW YORK: Malcolm S. Forbes, publisher, motorcycle and hot-air balloonist, plans to launch a magazine aimed at "restfully awake" people who live in big cities.

The *Takeoff* of Egg is set for spring, Forbes announced. "Symbolically," said Forbes, chairman of Forbes Inc., "the egg is the source of everything new."

"Part of the essential nature of the magazine is going to

be the thrill of discovery," he said. "Psychologically, you can never be sure what's inside an egg. You have to open it. It might be a Fabergé egg."

Forbes is a collector of Fabergé eggs.

Egg is to appear 10 times a year and cover music, film, theatre, fashion, design, celebrities, society, food, wines, art and life.

It will be "about the vibrant culture of those alive to the fun of being alive," Forbes said.

Malcolm S. Forbes, a regular contributor to magazines such as *7 Days*, *Elle* and the *New Yorker*, has been named editor of Egg, Forbes said.

Forbes' youngest son, Timothy, will be president of Egg. He is president of *American Heritage*, another magazine published by the company best known for its business weekly, *Forbes Magazine* (AP).

MOSCOW: Residents of the Ural Mountain steel town of Nizhny Taglik are accustomed to area rivers running black and brown from industrial residue, but they did not expect rivers to yield gold.

The *Telegraph* news agency reported yesterday that some municipal workers volunteered to try to clean one of the most polluted rivers and were surprised when they found flakes of yellow metal in the grime.

Scientists confirmed the flakes were gold, and the workers combined panning and cleaning.

Tess said the workers collected 11 pounds (4.9 kilograms) of gold from about a mile (kilometre) of the river, and the metal was sold by city officials for \$59,000. The agency reported the money was used to buy medical equipment for the city. (AP)

TAMPA, Florida: A 14-month-old girl has become the first person to successfully undergo surgery to correct a rare genetic deformity known as Mermaid Syndrome, in which the legs are fused together, doctors said yesterday.

Tiffany Yorks, 14 months, has survived longer than any other child born with the deformity called Sirenomelia, or Mermaid Syndrome.

"I am not aware of any child in the medical literature that has survived beyond a few hours or days of life," said John Optea, chief of staff at the Shriners Hospital for crippled children in Tampa. (UPI)

Policeman and his bride shot by Mafia gunmen

directly involved in Mafia work but his beat covered a notorious Palermo drug addict district supplied by organised crime.

The murders occurred one day after Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti urged a new state offensive on organised crime.

But investigators said they knew no reason why the Sicilian Mafia should have singled out Agostino, the young state police officer who, with his wife, Giovanni Castellucci, 20, died in a hail of bullets fired into their summer home.

Police officials said gunmen poked weapons through the shutters of the bungalow in Vilagrazia di Carini, a coastal town 20 miles (30 km) from Palermo, then opened fire. The killers escaped on motorcycles, leaving one in flames nearby.

Only Friday, Andreotti, heading a new government, told parliament that organised crime is "an authentic national emergency" and must be fought with all the state's resources. The latest killings dramatically underscored the crisis.

Murders all in the 'family'

Manson now 56

LOS ANGELES, Aug 6, (Reuter): Twenty years after the Tate-La Bianca murders shocked the world, devil worshippers have not forgotten Charles Manson.

The flood of fan mail that he receives in his jail cell every week includes letters from satanists who idolise one of America's most notorious killers.

Two decades later, Stephen Kay, one of the prosecutors who convicted Manson and others of the Tate-LaBianca murders, relives the case every time he argues against releasing one of the killers on parole.

"To me, it doesn't seem to have happened that long ago," he said.

The awful memories also readily come back to Doris Tate, mother of the most famous victim, actress Sharon Tate, every time she counsels other parents of murdered children.

"I relive the case but at the same time I realise how important it is for these people to fight," she said.

The murderous two-day rampage through Los Angeles also casts a spell well beyond those personally involved in the case. For some, it stands out like some bloody exclamation mark at the end of the 1960s.

"This is looked at as the most famous case in US criminal history," Kay said in an interview. "It's a case that seems to capture the imagination not only of American people but throughout the world."

It was early on Aug 9, 1969, that four members of Manson's "family" — on a "creepy-crawly" mission — invaded the plush Beverly Hills estate rented by Tate and her husband, film director Roman Polanski. They butchered the 26-year-old starlet and four guests.

The following night, Manson himself tied up Rosemary and Leno LaBianca, the owner of a supermarket chain, in their Los Angeles home and left his followers to carve them up with silverware from the LaBianca kitchen.

Manson, Susan Atkins, Patricia Krenwinkel and Leslie Van Houten were convicted of murder and sentenced to the gas chamber. But when California's death penalty law was invalidated in 1972, the sentences were commuted to indeterminate terms as long as life.

They have been eligible for parole since 1978 and the regular parole hearings help keep the case alive.

Now the 20th anniversary of the Tate-LaBianca murders is bringing public interest to a crescendo.

Kay says he has recently done television talk shows as far afield as Pittsburgh and San Francisco.

They can spend the rest of their lives being model prisoners.

"But they are model prisoners for one reason — because they know that's their only ticket out of prison," Kay adds.

"They can spend the rest of their lives being model prisoners. I don't want them out in society, they're nothing but trouble."

But Tate, director of the Los Angeles Chapter of parents of Murdered Children, accepts the role that her involvement in the case has thrust on her.

East Berlin: a modern Klondike

MOSCOW, Aug 6, (UPI): American, British and French soldiers based in West Berlin regularly raid stores in East Berlin and buy state-subsidised products with cheap money obtained illegally on the black market, a Soviet newspaper said yesterday.

The soldiers sell dollars and West German marks to speculators in West Berlin, who then turn them back to the East Berliners at an illegal rate as much as 20 times more favourable than the official exchange level, the paper said.

"They come in empty-handed and leave loaded with purchases," it said. "No one would pay any attention to them but for their military uniforms — American, British and French. Everyone knows that they come from West Berlin."

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INTERNATIONAL

We are tired of war: Ortega

TEL, Honduras, Aug 6. (Agencies): Central America is tired of war and the United States should co-operate with a call for disbanding the Contra rebels. Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said yesterday.

Central American presidents are meeting again today after making slow progress in the first day of a summit focusing on the demobilisation of Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

"We are discussing it. We are getting closer," Ortega told reporters. "The important thing is for the presidents to support a plan and to agree on a timetable," he said.

A day before the conference began, Ortega signed an agreement with his domestic opposition that calls for disbanding the Contra rebel force in Honduras in exchange for electoral and political reforms.

"President (George) Bush will have to accept reality, and the reality is that the people of Central America are tired of war. We want peace because Central Americans are dying, not Americans, and they should respect our decisions," said Ortega as he arrived for the meeting.

Ortega said the United States should take charge of disbanding the Contras and that the only thing to be discussed was "how to get the Contras out peacefully and in an orderly manner."

Although the United States halted arms supplies to the Contras in 1988, it is still providing non-lethal aid to guerrillas and family members camped in the Honduran mountains near the Nicaraguan border.

The Central American leaders agreed at a February summit in El Salvador to resettle the Contras, but deferred considering details until this meeting.

But Central American foreign ministers, who met separately to work on technical aspects of a plan, emerged pessimistic from their first session.

"Nothing has been resolved," Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto told reporters.

The ministers were continuing a meeting suspended in Guatemala this week after El Salvador's government called for a separate plan to disband leftist Salvadoran guerrillas.

A Costa Rican source said the foreign ministers were discussing plans on demobilising both rebel groups.

"It's very premature to talk about finished documents. There is a group of elements from which we hope to draw a concrete result probably tomorrow," Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras said.

Ortega said the presidents reacted positively to a proposal from the Salvadorean guerrilla movement, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), to open a dialogue with the right-wing government of President Alfredo Cristiani.

In a letter they asked Ortega to present to the summit, FMLN commanders said they were ready to open a dialogue with the government on the basis of talks they held in Mexico last week with opposition parties.

Cristiani said his government had been open to dialogue with the guerrillas since it took office in June. "They are just responding to our request," he told reporters.

The US administration has resisted moves to demobilise the Contras before elections in Nicaragua next February, saying they must be kept intact to pressure the Sandinista government to hold a free and fair poll. Contra leaders also oppose early dismantlement.

The Nicaraguan government, which wants the Contras disbanded with three months, appeared to find support for its position from Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning architect of a 1987 Central American peace plan.

In meetings scheduled to last until Monday, the presidents will discuss a draft plan approved by lower-level officials from the five nations last May and calling for the Contras to be resettled in Nicaragua or other nations with help from the United Nations and International Red Cross.

Jaime Paz Zamora, a revolutionary turned social democrat, assumes the presidency of Bolivia today as head of a coalition backed by his former enemy, ex-military dictator Hugo Banzer.

"I call on all Bolivians to unite in consolidating democracy and developing our nation," Paz Zamora said after his election to a four-year term in a marathon congressional run-off that ended yesterday.

Cut military spending NATO urges Moscow

BRUSSELS, Aug 6. (Reuter): NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner called on the Soviet Union today to cut military spending or face failure in its social and economic reform programme.

At around 13 to 14 percent of the country's gross national product, Soviet defence spending was a crippling burden on the economy, Woerner said.

"Perestroika (restructuring) is condemned to failure if this level of spending is maintained," he told a meeting of NATO reserve officers in Wuerzburg, West Germany.

"The 3,000 new tanks that pour out of Soviet factories each year somewhat mitigate the television pictures of a few dozen old tanks leaving Hungary," Woerner said, according to a prepared text of his speech made available in Brussels.

He is referring to cuts in conventional weapons announced by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in

December. Moscow plans to reduce its forces in Europe by 500,000 men and 10,000 tanks by 1990.

Woerner, a former West German defence minister, warned the West not to lower its guard because the process of change in the East Bloc would take a long time to produce irreversible results.

"Today large parts of our public opinion tend to believe that the changes we see in East-West relations have an immediate pay-off ... even if everything works out in our favour, the time frame we are looking at is very much long-term," he said.

He said recent events in China served as a reminder that the success of reforms in the communist camp was not a foregone conclusion.

"A NATO that allows its defence to rust away through structural disarmament is like a driver who fails to renew his insurance policy because he has not yet had an accident."

Shuttle crew ready to blast off

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, Aug 6. (UPI): With countdown clocks ticking, the five-man crew of the veteran shuttle Columbia arrived at the Kennedy Space Centre yesterday for blastoff Tuesday on a military mission, the spaceplane's first flight since the Challenger disaster.

"We're real excited," Commander Brewster Shaw, an Air Force colonel who flew aboard Columbia in 1983, told reporters. "We need to get Columbia flying again and we're going to have the opportunity to do that. I love her. I flew her a long time ago, it's a great machine. It's a really solid vehicle."

Columbia's launch on the fifth post-Challenger flight, the third of 1989, is scheduled for between 7.30 am (1130 GMT) and 11.30 am (1530 GMT) Tuesday. The exact time is classified, but sources have said liftoff is planned for around 8 am (1200 GMT).

The goal of the flight, sources say, is deployment of an advanced imaging reconnaissance satellite to spy on the Soviet Union. A small, "secondary" payload also is believed to be mounted in Columbia's cargo bay.

Columbia's 80-hour countdown began on time at 12.01 am yesterday and the ship's all-military crew arrived at the Kennedy Space Centre about 4 pm after a flight from the Johnson Space Centre in Houston. They were greeted at the shuttle runway by family members holding up a banner that read: "Go Columbia."

Asked if he had confidence in Columbia, which has not flown in 43 months, Shaw said: "Absolutely. You bet I do. If I didn't we wouldn't climb in it. It will fly well."

Shaw's crewmates are co-pilot Richard "Dick" Richards, 42, Army Lieutenant Colonel James Adamson, 43, Air Force Major Mark Brown, 37, and Navy Commander David Leestma, 40.

As usual with such military space flights, NASA is keeping most details about the mission secret at the request of the Air Force.

All air-to-ground communications between mission control and the astronauts will be blacked out throughout the flight and the landing date will not be announced until 24 hours after liftoff. The flight is expected to last about four days, with landing scheduled for Edwards Air Force Base.

Columbia's 43-hour countdown, which includes about 36-1/2 hours of built-in "hold time," began on time yesterday even though work to "close out" the spaceplane's engine compartment was not complete.

NASA managers debated delaying the start of the countdown — and launch — by 24 hours because of concern technicians would not be able to get the engine room ready for flight before the countdown required engineers to begin loading fuel aboard the shuttle to power its electrical generators.

But by early yesterday, NASA officials were confident the engine room work would be finished before or shortly after the start of an eight-hour hold in the countdown at 4 pm.

Columbia has only flown once in the past six years, blasting off just 16 days before Challenger's destruction on Jan 28, 1986.

At midnight (0400 GMT today), Dean's centre was near 29.0 north latitude and 64.5 west longitude, or 235 miles (378 kilometres) south of Bermuda.

Little change in strength was expected, said forecasters at the National Hurricane Centre in nearby Coral Gables, Florida.

Dean was moving north at 21 miles (33 kilometres) per hour, and was expected to keep the same heading for the next 24 hours, putting the centre near Bermuda later this morning. (AP)

Smile please!

US space shuttle Columbia commander Brewster Shaw waves as he walks with his wife Kathy after he and four other crewmembers arrived at the Kennedy Space Centre on Saturday. Columbia is scheduled to be launched Aug 8. (Reuter wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Downing Street barrier: An anti-terrorist barrier is to be installed in 10 Downing Street in an unprecedented tightening of security to protect the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, according to a report here today.

Government officials described the automatic steel barrier as a "blocker" which is designed to spring up and halt any vehicles bursting through existing gates at the entrance to the prime minister's official residence, the Sunday Times said.

It will be installed later this month and is the most elaborate security measure yet in Downing Street.

Approval of the barrier was given after a full-scale review of security last year uncovered "serious lapses" in the measures designed to protect the building, the paper added. (KUNA)

46 arrested: About 1,000 marchers demanding that British troops withdraw from Northern Ireland encountered counter-demonstrators shouting abuse yesterday, and police moved in, making 46 arrests.

Police said they acted as right-wing protesters confronted the marchers, organised by the Irish Freedom Movement. The marchers were observing in advance the 20th anniversary of the deployment of British troops in Northern Ireland. The first soldiers were dispatched there to control fighting between Roman Catholics and Protestants on Aug 14, 1969.

The right-wing British National Party also staged a demonstration in central London, and some of those protesters made their way to the Irish march, police said. (AP)

Visa-free trips: Negotiators for the United States and the Soviet Union have endorsed agreements permitting visa-free travel for natives of Northwest Alaska and the Soviet Union's Chukotka Peninsula.

The agreement reached Friday in Washington will become official when it is signed by US Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, possibly as early as September, said an aide to Alaskan Sen Frank Murkowski.

The agreement also establishes a commission of three Soviets and three Alaskans to help deal with minor incidents, emergency evacuations and search and rescue operations, said Murkowski aide Jessica Gavora. (AP)

Hurricane watch: A hurricane warning was posted yesterday for Bermuda as Hurricane Dean churned north with 85 mph (136 kilometre) per hour winds on a path heading for the Atlantic Ocean island, forecasters said.

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Bodies recovered: Rescue teams yesterday recovered the last bodies of people killed when an Olympic Airlines twin-engine plane crashed on the Aegean Island of Santoros, police said.

A commission of inquiry returned to Athens to examine the aircraft's flight recorder in a hope of finding the cause of Thursday's crash. Civil Aviation Service Chief Stelios Ledakis said a report was expected within 10 days.

All 31 passengers and the three crew members aboard the British-built Shorts SD 3-30 aircraft were killed when it flew into the sheer granite slopes of Mount Kerkis in dense fog at about 5 pm. (1400 GMT) Thursday. (AP)

Perhaps the most startling finding from the

Montreal, Aug 6. (AP): The Quebec issue in Canadian politics, thought to be diminishing since provincial voters rejected separation nearly a decade ago, has returned.

A recent Gallup poll that sent shock waves rumbling across the country found that 28 per cent of Canadians believe French-speaking Quebec should become an independent country.

The outcome, according to Gallup, was the strongest support for separation nationally since the company's pollsters first asked the question more than 20 years ago.

Perhaps the most startling finding from the

C'wealth ministers to seek sanctions

Pressure S. Africa to end apartheid

CANBERRA, Australia, Aug 6. (AP): A committee of Commonwealth foreign ministers meets tomorrow in Canberra to discuss imposing economic sanctions on South Africa because of its policies of racial segregation.

Conference sources said a key objective of the three-day meeting was to discuss such sanctions as Australia's proposal to persuade banks around the world to stop lending money to South Africa.

South Africa already has been hit with a range of sanctions as Australia's proposal to persuade banks around the world to stop lending money to South Africa.

South Africa already has been hit with a range of sanctions in the fields of politics, economics and sports, but they vary among nations that make up the Commonwealth, a group of former British colonies.

Under South Africa's policies of apartheid, the country's 28 million blacks have no vote in national affairs. The country's 5 million whites control the economy and maintain separate residential districts, schools and health services.

The countries represented at the Canberra committee meeting this week will be Australia, Canada, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Zambia, India, Guyana and Malaysia. Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal also is scheduled to attend.

This week's committee session is the last of four meetings scheduled over the past two years in preparation for the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this October.

Delegates to previous committee meetings have agreed that sanctions remain the most effective strategy for trying to pressure South Africa to end its apartheid policies.

"They are meeting to counter apartheid, particularly on the question of sanctions, financial links, security of the frontline states as well as countering South African propaganda," said conference organiser Billy Williams.

"The meeting will give high-level guidance ... on what further steps need to be taken to combat the policy of apartheid so that it can be peacefully dismantled."

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Highlights

Focus

The view in Washington

The Arab Times is publishing these interviews with top American officials in an effort to reflect the American point of view on the hostage crisis.

Military action: A former US intelligence official was quoted here yesterday as saying a military action would take place to release Western hostages in Lebanon if the diplomatic efforts reach an impasse in the next ten days.

Former deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Ray Cline told the "Journal du Dimanche" weekly newspaper that there will be no hope for releasing hostages in Lebanon if the diplomatic efforts between the US, Soviet Union, Israel, Syria and Iran fail.

"Then it will be essential to command a military operation to release the hostages," said Cline. "And in my opinion the operations must strike at Hezbollah camps and their training installations in the Bekaa valley. (KUNA)

US must change policy: Syria told UN envoy Marrack Goulding yesterday it wanted the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon but this could only be achieved if the United States changed its policies, Syria officials said.

The quoted Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara as telling Goulding that Syria, the main foreign power broker in neighbouring Lebanon, would continue efforts to free the 17 Western hostages on humanitarian grounds.

"Shara stressed that finding the appropriate climate for solving this problem depended on the United States and its way of dealing with others," one official said. (Reuters)

Soviet efforts: A Soviet diplomat yesterday said Moscow has joined in the flurry of diplomatic manoeuvring to try to free Western hostages held by Shiite extremists who continue to insist on the release of a Muslim cleric as a precondition for negotiation.

The Soviet ambassador in Beirut, Vassili Kolotska, said in a statement issued that "efforts to settle the hostage issue have been essentially pushed forward."

"In response to a request by the United States, the Soviet Union has been conducting contacts with regional parties to help reach a political settlement to the hostages matter," the statement said.

The Soviet ambassador appeared to be hinting that Syria, Moscow's main regional ally, and Iran, who has recently been seeking better relations with its communist neighbour, were being asked by the Kremlin to exert pressure on their Lebanese Shiite allies.

In London, the Sunday Express quoted "senior White House officials" as saying that "President Bush has secretly offered to give back nearly £3 billion of Iran's money" in return for Iranian efforts to secure release of the hostages in Lebanon. (UPI)

Berri sees no prospects: Lebanese Shiite Muslim leader Nabih Berri said yesterday he saw no immediate prospect of the release of Israeli servicemen and Western hostages believed held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

Berri told British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) radio after meeting UN special envoy Marrack Goulding in Damascus that he did not expect an Israeli-proposed prisoner swap to succeed.

Asked whether he had told Goulding there was no chance of the hostages being released at the moment, Berri replied: "That's what I believe." (Reuters)

Murphy accuses Israel: Richard Murphy, former assistant secretary of state for Mideast affairs, yesterday accused Israel of helping set the stage for the present hostage crisis by invading Lebanon in 1982.

The crisis was precipitated when Israeli commandos kidnapped a Muslim cleric in Lebanon two weeks ago, which shortly was followed by the apparent execution of American hostage William Higgins, a US marine corps officer who had been stationed in Lebanon with a United Nations observer team.

Speaking on the "Meet the Press" interview programme, Murphy said although Israel's Lebanon invasion by itself was not the catalyst, it was "the last of the blows to the Lebanese political structure and it was the final one which brought us to this state of chaos and anarchy you've got today." (KUNA)

Strike against Israel: Israel's abduction of Hezbollah cleric Sheikh Abdel-Karim Obeid made Lebanese Muslim groups even more determined to strike against Israel and its allies, an Iranian newspaper said yesterday.

"If any group doubted the infliction of blows on Israel and the US before the Zionist abduction of ... Obeid, they are now resolute in their decision that there is no alternative but inflicting heavy blows on Zionist occupiers and their supporters," Jamhuri Islami said.

UK asked help: A British newspaper, the Sunday Telegraph, yesterday reported that the UK has asked Algeria to intercede on behalf of the UK hostages held in Lebanon.

Intensive Algerian efforts were under way in Beirut to negotiate release of all Western hostages.

The paper quoted a "British diplomat in the Middle East" as saying "the chances are better now than they have been."

In the meantime, another newspaper, the Observer, used its editorial to express the hope that it was now possible "we are at the beginning of the last chapter of the awful hostage story in Lebanon."

But it was cautious to point out that the beginning is not the end itself. (KUNA)

Vatican's request: The Vatican has asked a senior cleric in Beirut to try to have the body of William Higgins, the American hostage reported hanged by his pro-Iranian captors, returned to his family. A Vatican source said yesterday.

'Cicippio walks if ...'

(Continued from Page 1)

US hostage Lieutenant-Colonel William Higgins.

Musawi said: "American threats to strike targets in Lebanon are meaningless ... the Americans have the mentality of cowboys. Nobody can threaten us with death, we are ready to die and face our God."

Israeli cabinet minister Ehud Olmert said today that Israel would not free Obeid in exchange for Cicippio unless three Israeli soldiers were included in the swap.

"It is imperative that in any such exchange the Israeli hostages be released. There will be no exchange without the Israelis," Olmert told Reuters.

An Israeli Foreign Ministry official refused to comment on an offer by Shiite radicals to free Cicippio in exchange for Ghedi plus 150 Lebanese and 300 Palestinian prisoners.

But Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Liel urged the Hezbollah organisation to negotiate with Israel to swap all foreign and Israeli prisoners in exchange for Obeid and Shiite prisoners held in Israel and South Lebanon.

Liel and a Defence Ministry official declined to comment on a threat by a Hezbollah leader to execute an Israeli soldier it holds if Israel refuses to free Obeid.

Prior to the offer to swap Cicippio and the threat to kill an Israeli soldier, officials urged all countries with captives in Lebanon to co-ordinate strategy in any negotiations with pro-Iranian groups for the release of hostages.

Officials also warned that Obeid would be freed only as part of a deal that includes freedom for captive Israeli soldiers.

"The Foreign Ministry decided it is useless to publicly respond to every statement," Liel said.

"The Israeli offer (to swap prisoner) still stands and if Hezbollah has serious intentions it can approach us through different channels such as the Red Cross."

Earlier, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Israel would only consider swapping all foreign and Israeli prisoners in Lebanon for Obeid and Shiite detainees in Israel.

"I am not going to deal with anything at the present ... but an overall and comprehensive swap," Rabin told the CBS network.

The statement came amid concern that momentum was building toward separate deals that could provide for the release of 17 Western hostages but exclude three Israeli servicemen held captive.

"We have the feeling co-ordination at this stage might help, and countries with hostages should speak together," Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Liel said in response to a question.

"We feel chances for a deal are better if those countries co-ordinate activities and not work separately."

In an interview with the CBS Sunday News programme, "Face the Nation," that Israel Radio broadcast, Rabin said Israel's first priority was securing the release of three Israeli soldiers held in Lebanon since 1980.

On his return from revolutionary Iran in 1983, he dedicated his life to spreading Khomeini's teachings to Jibsheet's youth.

He took over as the village cleric, replacing Sheikh Rabeh Harb who was killed by Israeli soldiers in 1983.

Obeid lived under Israeli occupation for three years and was arrested twice for questioning, his wife Mouna said.

He first emerged as having links to hostage-taking when US Colonel William Higgins — said by a radical group to have been hanged in reprisal for Obeid's abduction — was kidnapped in February 1988.

Security sources in the south said Abu Hussein, Hezbollah's military co-ordinator in the area, seized Higgins in co-operation with Obeid.

Arens said he has been in contact almost daily with US Secretary of State James Baker. He told Baker one of the successes of last week's Lebanon hostage crisis was the evidence that Cicippio was alive and "his chances of staying alive are stronger."

Elsewhere, Nabih Berri, leader of the Shiite militia Amal, predicted efforts to arrange negotiations would fail because of Israel's kidnapping of Obeid. "I don't think they will succeed," he said in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corp.

However, a UN mediator Marrack Goulding said that families of hostages in Lebanon should not lose hope.

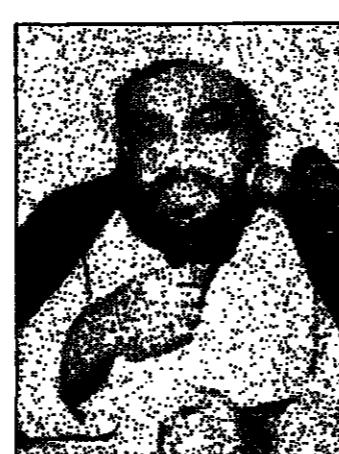
"My message is that they must never, ever lose hope. They must understand that this is an extraordinarily difficult and complex situation ... you can't flip a switch and produce the results you want," he said.

Goulding added there is a kind of subdued optimism about the prospects for arranging a hostage swap.



Crash site

File photo of the US helicopters crashed in the Iranian desert during the failed mission to rescue the American hostages held in the US embassy in Tehran, taken April 27, 1980. Despite an array of powerful and accurate US weapons covering the Middle East, experts say history and a lack of key intelligence give President Bush little hope of rescuing American hostages in Lebanon. (Reuter wirephoto)



Sheikh Subhi Rufail, a senior member of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah at a press conference in a Shiite suburb denied there were any negotiations for exchange of prisoners or hostages.



Reproduction of photographs of Cicippio (right) and Austin Tracy (left) issued by news papers in West Beirut. (Reuter wirephoto)



The US Navy warship USS Iowa is pulled away from the docks in France on Wednesday after a routine courtesy visit. The Iowa recently returned to service after a gun turret explosion in which 47 were killed in April 19. (Reuter wirephoto)



US President George Bush (right) talks with Chief of Staff John Sununu (left) National Drug Control policy director William Bennett (2nd from left) and deputy to Chief of Staff Andy Card in the White House Oval Office on Thursday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Bush: 'These are not easy days'

WASHINGTON, Aug 6. (AP): George Bush had watched a hostage crisis help destroy one president and ensnare another in scandal, so he knew full well he was plunging into high-risk territory when terrorists claimed to have killed one American and set an execution date for another in Lebanon.

The following is a transcript of Bush's remarks on the hostage issue, which were made after he received proposed legislation on the Line-item Veto act of 1989:

Q: Mr President, what do you make of Rafsanjani's offer to help resolve the hostage crisis?

A: Well, there's something to be said for that and that's what we did in the case of Libya. If there were as equally an effective way to do that under the current circumstances of these people that are held in different places by small groups in locations that don't offer the same kind of targeting opportunities; and so forth, we could follow that policy approach. That is not the situation on the ground with respect to our hostages in Lebanon.

Q: Thank you very much, Secretary Baker. We appreciate your coming tonight.

President Bush says he is "pleased" by an offer from Iranian President Rafsanjani to help resolve the hostage crisis in Lebanon.

When you see a statement that offers hope for the return of our hostages, I want to explore it to the fullest," the president told reporters Aug 4.

Rafsanjani reportedly told a mass prayer meeting in Tehran, "I address the White House: there is ... a solution for freeing the hostages. Take a sensible attitude, and we will help solve the problems there so that people of the region may live in peace and friendship."

Bush appealed to countries everywhere to "lay aside this holding of people against their will hostage" and to "do what is right and decent and honourable in terms of the release of those hostages that are still held."

He asked "a full accounting in the case of Colonel Higgins — a distinguished officer who was wearing the uniform of the United Nations."

The crisis was precipitated when Israeli commandos kidnapped a Muslim cleric in Lebanon two weeks ago, which shortly was followed by the apparent execution of American hostage William Higgins, a US marine corps officer who had been stationed in Lebanon with a United Nations observer team.

Speaking on the "Meet the Press" interview programme, Murphy said although Israel's Lebanon invasion by itself was not the catalyst, it was "the last of the blows to the Lebanese political structure and it was the final one which brought us to this state of chaos and anarchy you've got today." (KUNA)

Murphy accuses Israel: Richard Murphy, former assistant secretary of state for Mideast affairs, yesterday accused Israel of helping set the stage for the present hostage crisis by invading Lebanon in 1982.

The crisis was precipitated when Israeli commandos kidnapped a Muslim cleric in Lebanon two weeks ago, which shortly was followed by the apparent execution of American hostage William Higgins, a US marine corps officer who had been stationed in Lebanon with a United Nations observer team.

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Strike against Israel: Israel's abduction of Hezbollah cleric Sheikh Abdel-Karim Obeid made Lebanese Muslim groups even more determined to strike against Israel and its allies, an Iranian newspaper said yesterday.

"If any group doubted the infliction of blows on Israel and the US before the Zionist abduction of ... Obeid, they are now resolute in their decision that there is no alternative but inflicting heavy blows on Zionist occupiers and their supporters," Jamhuri Islami said.

UK asked help: A British newspaper, the Sunday Telegraph, yesterday reported that the UK has asked Algeria to intercede on behalf of the UK hostages held in Lebanon.

Intensive Algerian efforts were under way in Beirut to negotiate release of all Western hostages.

The paper quoted a "British diplomat in the Middle East" as saying "the chances are better now than they have been."

In the meantime, another newspaper, the Observer, used its editorial to express the hope that it was now possible "we are at the beginning of the last chapter of the awful hostage story in Lebanon."

But it was cautious to point out that the beginning is not the end itself. (KUNA)

she sobbed.
Israel says Obeid, 36, was a major force behind scores of attacks by Hezbollah fighters against Israeli troops and their allies who control a border security strip in the south.

Some of Jibsheet's 12,000 Shiite residents said Israel's invasion of south Lebanon in 1982 had generated fierce hatred for the Jewish state among villagers, including Obeid.

His family, moderate Shiites, said he decided to study theology in Tehran after attending the haj pilgrimage to Makkah with his parents in 1980.

On his return from revolutionary Iran in 1983, he dedicated his life to spreading Khomeini's teachings to Jibsheet's youth.

He took over as the village cleric, replacing Sheikh Rabeh Harb who was killed by Israeli soldiers in 1983.

Obeid lived under Israeli occupation for three years and was arrested twice for questioning, his wife Mouna said.

He first emerged as having links to hostage-taking when US Colonel William Higgins — said by a radical group to have been hanged in reprisal for Obeid's abduction — was kidnapped in February 1988.

Security sources in the south said Abu Hussein, Hezbollah's military co-ordinator in the area, seized Higgins in co-operation with Obeid.

High-ranking military officials were seen entering the White House carrying large charts and maps, giving rise to speculation that a military strike was being planned.

But nothing happened after the apparent shift to a crisis mode.

At the Tuesday morning meeting of top White House aides, Chief of Staff John Sununu emphasised the limitations Bush faced in trying to employ military options.

Stephen Studdert, a high-ranking aide, described Bush as "outraged, incensed, but cognizant of the limitations on his options and the need to be responsible."

Bush himself acknowledged in a 1986 report on terrorism that retaliation was not an easy course. "Our principles of justice will not permit random retaliation against groups of countries," the report said.

The White House began to reverse course. There was no crisis and the government was not being immobilised by terrorism, Fitzwater said Tuesday.

For Reagan, the kidnapping of Americans in Lebanon led the White House into the improbable Iran-Contra affair with embarrassing revelations about criminal wrongdoing and clumsy attempts to trade arms for hostages.

No one knew for sure why Cicippio's sentence was suspended. "I like to think that a broad spread appeal to nations in every corner of the globe had some-

tank, said Bush "looked the same way all presidents look when they get into a hostage crisis. He looked ineffectual and the United States look helpless."

"He's under pressure to do something and there's nothing he can do," Schneider said. "He rediscovered a lesson he should have learned ... to resist the temptation to allow these things to become a serious national crisis because you cannot control events."

On the other hand, Stephen Hess, a presidential scholar at the Brookings Institution, said Bush had performed well.

Saadawi: Egypt's champion of women's struggle

Threat from militants prompted posting of armed guards

Cairo, Aug 6. (Reuters): Nawal El Saadawi has spent time in prison, had armed guards posted outside her front door for her own protection and had some of her work banned because of her campaign for an Arab women's revolt in a male world.

"The authorities telephoned me in 1987 and said they were putting guards outside my house because I was in danger," said the ebullient, white-haired Egyptian novelist.

The 24-hour guard remained there 18 months — apparently because of threats from Muslim militants who regarded one of her books in particular, "The Fall of the Imam," as heresy.

The Imam or Islamic leader in question is a sinister symbol of pharaonic power — a man or combination of men claiming divine authority.

The book is heavily satirical, and involves the Imam going to heaven and asking God for a reprieve from death. But he has difficulty getting

past reception.

For Saadawi, the Imam represents "dictatorship" in the form of late Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, former Sudanese leader Jaafar Nimeiri, now exiled in Cairo, and late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini.

"It's all of them," she said. "To me God is justice and freedom. God is an idea inside each of us. In that sense, I'm very religious."

She was dismissed from a senior government position in 1972 because of her political views and the way she expressed them.

In 1984, her novel "God Dies by the Nile" was banned in Egypt but Saadawi found a publisher in Beirut prepared to print it.

She has been writing since 1955 and a constant theme has been woman's struggle against subjugation by the religious and political authority of men.

"I cannot distinguish between class and gender struggle," she told Reuters. "I am against authority

embodied in certain men in both public and private life."

Speaking up for womanhood has a long history in Egypt, which hosted the first Arab Women's Feminist Conference in the 1930s and has long led the Arab world in moving towards equality of the sexes.

In 1834 a religious mentor of students, Sheikh Rifa'a Rifa'at Tahawi, wrote the first book calling for the education of women and an improvement in their social status.

Qassem Amin, a judge, became known as the liberator of women after his books, "Liberation of Women" and "The New Woman," were published at the turn of the century.

Saadawi was packed off to jail by Sadat with thousands of others in 1981, but her imprisonment ended with his assassination by Muslim zealots on Oct 6 the same year.

In jail she met a woman named Firdaus, on whom she based her novel "Woman at Point Zero."

Saadawi's feminist campaign does not end with novels.

As a qualified psychiatrist she helped young women suffering from emotional mental turmoil, and in 1982 she founded the Arab Women's Solidarity Association.

"It is a Pan-Arab organisation devoted to promoting women economically, culturally and politically," she said.



Saadawi (centre) addresses an Arab international conference on challenges faced by Arab women, organised by the Arab Women's Solidarity Society.

Fatah to elect young leaders

Uprising to be used as lever for state

TUNIS, Aug 6. (Reuters): Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah movement was set today to endorse the strategy of using the Palestinian uprising as a lever for an independent state alongside Israel.

The Fatah general congress in Tunis, its first meeting at this level since the one in Damascus nine years ago, will also elect new, younger leaders to dilute the influence of the core that founded the movement 30 years ago.

Organisers have kept the congress out of the public eye and little information has filtered out of the tightly-guarded conference hall where more than 1,100 delegates have been meeting since Thursday.

One adviser to Arafat, Fatah leader and chairman of the PLO, said "armed struggle" was a constant theme in speeches, especially by those vying for five vacant seats in the central committee.

Armed struggle remains an emotive issue in the Palestinian movement, despite evidence that the uprising or intifada in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has done more for the Palestinian cause in 20 months than 20 years of commando raids.

In his keynote opening speech on Thursday, Arafat defended the armed struggle of the past and, without renouncing it for the future, said there was no going back on the intifada and diplomatic initiative which it made possible.

The PLO, strengthened by the intifada, last year endorsed the idea of a Palestinian state co-existing with Israel. Arafat also renounced terrorism and recognised Israel's right to exist, clearing the way for direct talks with Washington.

Political resolutions, expected later today, would show how far Arafat has succeeded in bringing Fatah, grassroots, fully behind this strategy.

Arafat is often criticised for taking personal initiatives and many militants have been asking what he has achieved by recognising Israel and calling off military operations.

Pressure for resumed attacks is minimal, however, and Arafat need not oppose a resolution saying armed struggle was legitimate, as this remains the theoretical position of all PLO factions, delegates said.

Fatah officials said none of the 10 members of the current central committee was likely to lose a seat in elections today afternoon, especially those who helped Arafat create Fatah in Kuwait in the late 1950s.

The vacancies arose through three assassinations and expulsions among 15 leaders elected in 1980.

The officials said three other members would later be co-opted onto the central committee, bringing the membership up to 18, the statutory maximum.

The most prominent candidates for the seats are Intissar Al Wazir, the widow of Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad) who was assassinated in Tunis last year, and Hakam Belawati, the PLO representative in Tunis who has risen to prominence as the PLO's main contact with US Ambassador Robert Pelletreau.



Arafat holds up the insignia of Al Asifa, the military wing of the Fatah movement during a debate at Fatah's general congress in Tunis. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soldier hurt by firebomb

Jewish house burned

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Aug 6. (AP): An Israeli soldier was injured today in a firebomb attack on an Army patrol in the open-air market in Nablus, the West Bank's largest city, the Army said.

The military command said the soldier, a patrol commander, suffered moderate injuries.

Troops launched a search for the attackers and clamped a curfew on the city's open-air market, where the assault took place, and on a nearby neighbourhood, it said. The curfew forced some 40,000 residents to stay indoors, Arab reporters said.

Israeli radio identified the injured trooper as a 26-year-old reserve soldier from Bat Yam, a suburb of Tel Aviv. His name was not released.

The radio and Arab reporters in Nablus said the Army patrol responded to the attack with gunfire, and the military later put up roadblocks throughout the city and were searching Arab cars. No further injuries were reported.

The attack followed a night march by some 60 khaki-uniformed and masked supporters of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, who raised an outlawed Palestinian flag and called through loudspeakers for uniting PLO factions under Arafat's Fatah wing, Arab journalists said.

In the West Bank town of Ramallah and nearby El Bireh, a commercial strike was reported. Palestinian journalists said the strike came after an underground "Unified Merchants' Committee" distributed a leaflet urging a protest against Israeli taxation.

Non-payment of taxes is one of the major tactics in the Arab rebellion against Israeli rule.

"The enemy has launched a cowardly economic war against the merchants and we have to resist it by collectively refusing to pay taxes," the leaflet said.

In another development, a police spokesman in occupied Jerusalem said the arson attack on a Jewish-owned house in the old city's Muslim quarter last night was a nationalist assault.

Spokesman Avi Zelba said the house was heavily damaged when the assailants broke in, poured flammable material and lit it. No injuries were reported.

Zelba said police detained seven Palestinians as suspects in the arson but released them today.

Several hundred Jews, including religious seminary students, live in the Muslim quarter, home to 23,000 Arabs.

Four Jewish families have moved into the Muslim quarter last month, and Israeli media said the arson attack seemed to be a warning to them.

Also today, Army radio and the Hadashot daily quoted Mahmoud Ali Shaaban, 22, of the Gaza Strip's Jabalya refugee camp, as confessing to the stabbing murder of two inmates at the southern desert Ketziot prison camp for Palestinians yesterday.

Hadashot quoted Shaaban as saying he killed one detainee for homosexual reasons and the second because he suspected the victim of collaborating with Israel.

At least 89 Palestinians have been murdered by their brethren as suspected collaborators, and some 527 have died in clashes with the Army and other Israelis. Thirty-eight Israelis have also been killed.

Rockets greet Soviet minister

KABUL, Aug 6. (Reuters): Rebel rockets rained down on the Afghan capital Kabul today as Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze flew in for talks with the Moscow-backed government.

The rockets fell in the morning on the Darulaman district where the Soviet embassy and Afghan Ministry of Defence are located. In the afternoon 16 missiles landed within a kilometre (half-a-mile) of the Continental Hotel, where many foreign journalists are based.

Shevardnadze will probably stay until tomorrow, Soviet sources said. He is expected to talk about last week's meeting in Stockholm between US and Soviet officials at which Afghanistan was the major topic.

Diplomats said they also expected Shevardnadze to brief Afghan President Najibullah on the improving ties between the Soviet Union and Iran, where he had brief talks last week.

In other developments, Jagindar Singh angrily brandished a piece of shrapnel from a rocket that tore through his aunt's house yesterday and wondered aloud when the killing would end.

In the room where Singh's 16-year-old cousin had been ironing, a pile of newly pressed sheets, stained with blood, lay in the rubble amid twisted fragments of shrapnel and the dusty iron.

The girl's two sisters, aged 13 and 8, were also hurt. They, along with two children of a neighbour playing in the front yard, were among the latest victims of the rocketing of Kabul, as almost daily event since June.

A Foreign Minister spokesman, Mohammad Nabi Amani, said 13 rockets pounded the capital yesterday, wounding eight people. But during and after his briefing at least four more rockets fell, their distant booms heard across the city.

Amani said the rockets were concentrated around Kabul's main grain silo, missing the silo itself and striking nearby.

The attack, he said, was part of a drive by US-backed rebels fighting to oust the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah to starve this city of 2.25 million.

The house of Singh's aunt was about 1-1/2 miles (2.5 km) from the silo. The metal roof was torn off, and the rocket's path could be traced through holes in the ceilings down to the ground floor.

The windows in a primary school next door to the two-storey house were shattered.

"If the school has been open, God knows how many students would have been killed," said Singh. The government has extended the summer holiday because of rocket attacks.

"We think this is a policy of the United States and the Soviet Union. They are dividing the world ... and they are dividing Afghanistan," said Singh, an Afghan of Indian descent who works in the money bazaar.

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It was the second discovery of a gold-laden burial in Nimrud this year.

The agency quoted Muadas Saeed, Iraq's director of antiquities, as saying the find included "hundreds of gold ornaments and pieces of jewellery."

He said they were believed to belong to

Exemplar of peace: Khalil Gibran

Garden proposed

WASHINGTON, Aug 6. (AP): In a city filled with monuments to war, admirers of Khalil Gibran want to build a garden memorialising the Lebanese-American exemplar of peace.

The garden will celebrate peace and understanding, and a writer whose words helped four decades of American young people out of the maze of adolescence into the unsure world of adulthood.

It is a garden that almost wasn't.

But Lebanese-Americans mobilised in the past few months to raise most of the \$1 million or so needed to beat a national park service deadline and break ground for the wooded two-acre plot dedicated to their countryman, Khalil Gibran, author of "The Prophet."

Gibran's romantic dialectic was severely criticised by academics, but nevertheless captured the interest of generations of young people, notably in the 1960s, with passages like this:

"Then a woman said, speak to us of joy and sorrow."

And he answered:

"Your joy is sorrow unmasked.
And the selfsame well from which your laughter rises was oftentimes filled with your tears."

"The Prophet," Gibran's most popular book, is the best-selling hardcover book on the Alfred A. Knopf Publishing House list. It has reached up to 6 million copies since it was first printed in 1923, and still sells 100,000 a year. The deluxe edition has sold another 363,000 copies at a steady rate of 11,500 a year, and the paperback has sold 1,886,000 at the rate of 40,000 a year. An audio version brought out in 1986 sells about 10,000 a year.

But the planning for a memorial for Gibran were not nearly as successful, and it looked for a while as if the modest project might founder.

It was the idea of Washington housewife Sheryl Ameen, emanating from her despair over the plight of Lebanon, wracked by civil wars and invasion. She said she couldn't stand "the vision of all this bloodshed ... and I felt it was not the true image of the Lebanon," who for 4,000 years had been merchants and travellers, descendants of the ancient Phoenicians.

In 1983, the 100th anniversary of Gibran's birth, she determined to soften the image by building a

memorial of some sort to the gentle writer whose words helped sustain the Rev. Lawrence Jenco when he was held hostage in Lebanon. Jenco still quotes him: "Not everyone in chains is subdued," and "hell is not torture. Hell is an empty heart."

Amen, who is president of the Khalil Gibran centennial foundation, had heard that the comedian Flip Wilson also quoted Gibran at his performance, and he appeared before Congress in behalf of the memorial. A resolution providing park service land for the Gibran garden was written by Maine Sen. George Mitchell and the late Rep. Abraham Kazan Jr., both of Lebanese parentage.

But the planning was easier than getting the funds. Finally, another Lebanese, Bill Baroody, former head of the office of communications in the Gerald Ford White and director of the American Enterprise Institute, came to the rescue. He mobilised other prominent Arab-Americans and the money began trickling in.

Through the summer a series of seven dinners from Boston to Los Angeles are to raise almost half of the needed \$1 million, with the rest coming from organisations, wealthy individuals and the general public.

The deadline for breaking ground is October 19.

"It's off the ground and it's going to be successfully concluded," Baroody says. "It's been a struggle."

One of the reasons, he says, is that most Lebanese in America tended to assimilate totally, to become part of the background. But in the past 15 to 20 years they have tended to reconnect with their ethnic pride, partly in response to what was happening in their tiny native land.

Amen and Baroody want the garden and the foundation to echo what they believe Gibran stood for: Peace and understanding, moderation and consensus, rational debate and discussion. Gibran has plenty of critics in academic circles. They say his writing is not poetry, more like romantic drivel, an exercise in dialectic. What does Baroody think?

"Basically, I feel sorry for them."

The garden, in a lush woods near the vice president's residence and the Naval Observatory will feature a pool and walkways where visitors can come to meditate. Among the new plantings will be three 25-foot (8-metre) Lebanese cedar trees.

Abdul Meguid urges Kelly in Cairo talks

'Make Israel accept peace'

CAIRO, Aug 6. (Agencies): Egypt today urged the United States to make Israel accept the land-force formula, end its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and give the Palestinian people their legitimate rights.

Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid told reporters that while it was important to secure the safety of Israel, it was also necessary to end the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and exchange land for peace.

Meguid said the rockets were concentrated around Kabul's main grain silo, missing the silo itself and striking nearby.

The attack, he said, was part of a drive by US-backed rebels fighting to oust the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah to starve this city of 2.25 million

Call to upgrade police performance

Traffic awareness main aim

GENERAL Secretary of the Safety and Protection from Road Accidents Society, Dr Nabeel Abdul Raheem has called for upgrading the performance level of local policemen and has stressed upon the importance of implementing traffic laws to prevent traffic accidents. During a special interview conducted by the cultural activity group of Keifan Summer Club for girls, Nabeel said that the society will prepare special English language traffic awareness programmes

on television. The Safety and Protection from Road Accidents Society was established in 1982 by a number of educated youth who felt responsibility for the dramatic increase of traffic accidents in Kuwait. Kuwait witnessed 519 traffic deaths during 1981-82. The society was established mainly to upgrade residents traffic awareness.

Co-operation

The society fully co-operates with the Ministry of Interior in

addition to other authorities related with traffic, safety and security matters such as the municipality, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Public Health. Nabeel pointed out that participating in the Traffic Week is one of the society's main activities in which they honour ideal policemen and print and distribute posters on the occasion.

Praising the Ministry of Information, he pointed out that co-



Diving revival opens today

THE 4th Diving Revival Festival organised by the Kuwait Sea Sports Club will begin today at 8.00 am. Sultan Al Mudal, Secretary General of the club said that a number of Kuwaiti youths will take part in the diving trip which will continue for several days. The main aim of the festival is to revive Kuwait's heritage in diving for pearls. Head of the information committee of the festival, Asaad Abdulla said that a trip will be organised for journalists Thursday to see Kuwaiti young men in action.

The trip will take place on Thursday at 4.00 p.m. and will end the next day at the same time. Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad has donated a car which is the first prize for the winner of a cultural competition attached to the festival.

Communications Ministry appointing national cadres

Phone eavesdropping illegal

MINISTER of Communications, Abdulrahman Al Sharhan stated that the ministry is still appointing national staff at different sections due to the pressing need of the ministry to appoint national manpower in the field of communications.

In a special interview conducted by the Communications Magazine, Sharhan pointed out that the ministry follows several methods to enable it to collect unpaid debts from a number of telephone subscribers.

The minister stressed that eavesdropping on telephone conversations is prohibited by

the ministry laws and that such incidents are liable to judicial actions.

He revealed that the ministry has conducted several campaigns to correct the addresses of subscribers who do not receive their telephone bills through the mail.

Campaigns

He stressed that due to the pressing need of appointing national technicians at the communications field, the ministry is currently following up a policy of sending national trainees to training courses held abroad and in the country. Newly employed

workers will be required to take part in training courses before starting their duties at the ministry, the official said.

He pointed out that the ministry is faced with the dilemma of unpaid telephone bills. Those who did not pay their debts will be contacted by the ministry and informed that they should pay their bills within a specific period of time, after that the ministry will issue a warning stating that the telephone line will be disconnected if bills were not paid within a sixty days period. The matter then is referred to the court in case of non-payment, the minister said.

Maher Waheed currently attending the post graduate school at the Psychology Department said that some university students view security personnel as servants and treat them without any respect. He called upon students to co-operate with security personnel as they in fact represented the law and were committed to providing security for the students and the protection of their facilities.

Mohammed Abu Al Olla said that some university visitors refuse to hand in their identification cards when they desire to enter the campus and consider such a request to be an affront to them.

Fahmi Mohammed Lutfi said that some students gather at prohibited areas in front of the university building. He said that all students have been urged to lock their cars while attending lectures and are further warned not to keep valuables in their cars to avoid thefts.

She added that unlike essential services, fees should instead be imposed on unessential or what she called side services like travelling fees and others. She said that educational and health services are considered essential to every resident.

Zainab Ali expressed a negative reaction towards residents not respecting some free of charge services such as wastage and unessential use of medicines prescribed by clinics and hospitals at the Ministry of Public Health. Other examples include vandalism witnessed at different public utilities like the Sea Front Project and others. She added that imposing fees on some services is essential to encourage residents to appreciate the value of these services and is directed towards a policy of rationalisation in services.

The statement denounced the levying of charges on public services, starting with passports, through driving licences and medical services. The statement stressed that these charges constituted a heavy burden on people with limited income, in contrast to the high-income group.

The statement pointed out that the trade union supported the policy of rationalised spending but requested higher percentage of charges levied on people with higher-income and less charges on those with limited income.

Abdul Razzaq Mansoor said that he supports imposing fees on some of the services but, pointed out that such fees should be re-evaluated in order to avoid a burden on poor people. He added that imposing fees on health services may assist the Ministry of Public Health towards developing its utilities and will resolve wasting public money.

Regarding imposing fees on educational services, Mansoor suggested that only failing students should pay such fees in order to make them feel more responsible.

Abdullah Yousif supported imposing fees on some services pointing out that this may give residents a chance to participate in resolving the country's deficit budget.

Nadia Al Demerash has called upon government officials to reconsider the matter on imposing departure fees pointing out that such fees may harm the interests of many poor residents and citizens. She added that health and educational services are considered essential to every resident.

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Residents don't support health charges issue

MEMBERS of the cultural activity group at Sulaibiya Summer Club for Girls conducted several interviews with residents to highlight their opinions towards the Ministry of Health's intention to levy fees on some health services.

Amena Attak Akbar said that she is unsupportive to the idea of fees on some important services such as education and health sectors. She pointed out that many poor families living in Kuwait will be adversely affected by paying the value of these fees.

She added that unlike essential services, fees should instead be imposed on unessential or what she called side services like travelling fees and others. She said that educational and health services are considered essential to every resident.

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Value

Iqbal Mohammed who works as a driver said that since he first came to Kuwait he has been highly impressed with the great care the government bestows in presenting services to residents. He added that Kuwait is a generous country, therefore, he suggested that fees should be imposed on some of these services in order to make residents reconsider their value.

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Value

Iqbal Mohammed who works as a driver said that since he first came to Kuwait he has been highly impressed with the great care the government bestows in presenting services to residents. He added that Kuwait is a generous country, therefore, he suggested that fees should be imposed on some of these services in order to make residents reconsider their value.

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Call for lactose-free milk production

Seminar on dairy products

A RENOWNED doctor has called upon dairy companies to produce lactose-free milk for consumption in Kuwait. Head of the Cultural Committee of the Kuwaiti Medical Association, Dr. Hassan Abu Ghazala, said that the consumption of lactose, (a milk-sugar) causes pain, acidity and gas in the intestine.

Speaking at a seminar organised by the Kuwaiti Agricultural Engineering Society on "dairy production in Kuwait", Abu Ghazala said that the cause of these symptoms is attributed to the fact that when

people stop drinking milk for a long time, an enzyme called lactase, which digests the lactose, is greatly reduced in the body. He added that European countries have solved this problem by producing lactose-free milk and now this is now available to consumers there.

Liquid

Dr Abu Ghazala also called for production liquid milk for infants instead of milk powder in case mothers do not want to breast-feed them. He said that liquid milk

is healthier and suits the digestive systems of infants and children. He advised mothers not to depend upon maids to prepare milk for their children.

Abu Ghazala said that Arabs in the past used to consume large quantities of milk by mixing it with dates to make it a complete food. But he regretted that the latest statistics, reveal that the people of the East consume milk the least.

The chairman of a local dairy company described Kuwait as one of the advanced

countries in this field. He said that the dairy industry began in Kuwait over 25 years ago in co-operation with the Danish Dairies Union. He said that the factory of the company, considered to be the third largest in the world, produces over 20 varieties of dairy products beside 78 varieties of ice creams and several other products. Ezzat Jaafar said that the factory is computerised and is run by the most advanced electronic equipment. He added that the capital of his company is over KD10 million.

Arab news agencies under fire

ABU DHABI, Aug 6. (Reuters): Arab national news agencies are failing to do their jobs properly and should be replaced by an independent Arab Press Agency, a Gulf newspaper said today.

"We wish that Arab news agencies were the primary source of reports on Arab issues but regrettably news about them is found mainly in the four main international news agencies," the United Arab Emirates' "Al Khaleej" paper said in an editorial.

The paper described staff at the Arab agencies as "Helpless journalists who are carrying out government policies."

Almost all the news agencies in the 21-nation Arab League are government-owned.

"Al Khaleej" said that with the possible exception of reports from the Kuwait News Agency KUNA, Arabic newspapers found it hard to use Arab agency news.

The paper said a joint, private agency should be formed, run on a professional basis and free from government guidelines.

"Such an agency will not only be of great benefit to Arab media, but its voice will be heard in the media all over the world," it said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri cable

KUWAIT, Aug 6. (KUNA): His Highness the Amir has sent a congratulatory cable to the Bolivian President on the occasion of his country's national day.

Zayed 'versary

ABU DHABI, Aug 6. (KUNA): The United Arab Emirates today celebrated the 23rd anniversary of President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan's assumption of power.

All federal, ministries and establishments enjoyed a public holiday on this occasion.

Born in 1918 Sheikh Zayed became ruler of the UAE's largest Emirate, Abu Dhabi, in 1966.

Sheikh Zayed and rulers of the other emirates, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Umm Al Quwain, Ajman and Fujairah, established in 1971 the United Arab Emirates.

Qaboos visit

MUSCAT, Aug 6. (KUNA): Sultan Qaboos Bin Saeed of Oman is due to start a two-day private visit to Saudi Arabia tomorrow, it was announced here today.

Radio Muscat said Sultan Qaboos will meet during the visit the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin Abdel Aziz, but did not elaborate.

E. German envoy

KUWAIT, Aug. 6. (KUNA): Ambassador of German Democratic Republic to Kuwait Kurt Merkel affirmed that his country does not intend to establish diplomatic relations with Israel as long as the Palestinian cause remained unsolved.

The East German diplomat added in a statement to a local Kuwaiti daily that although East Germany calls for the Palestinians' recognition of all countries of the region to exist, it also maintains "strong and traditional relations" with the Palestinians through their leader Yasser Arafat.

He said that President of Democratic Germany Erich Honecker had met Arafat several times and he understands and supports the Palestine Liberation Organisation's policy.

He also indicated his country's full support to the Palestinian uprising in the Occupied Territories.

Postponement

RIYADH, Aug. 6. (KUNA): A meeting of the Gulf Co-operation Council Foreign Ministers' Undersecretaries previously scheduled to convene in Kuwait on Aug 15, has been postponed, it was announced here today.

Sources of the GCC General Secretariat said that consultations are currently underway among six member states to fix a new date for the meeting.



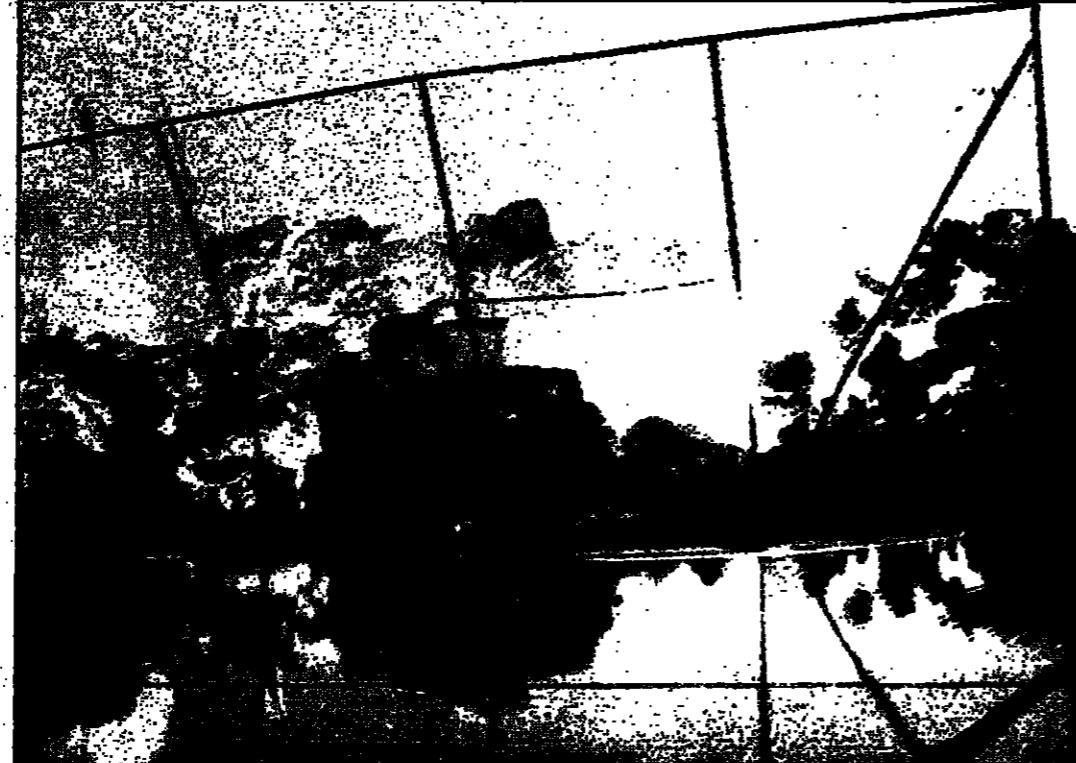
It's better on a camel

A man from Qatar travelling the globe on his camel arrived in Kuwait Thursday evening to start the second stage of a journey around the world. Saleh Mohammed Al Shamari arrived at the public cafe in Sharq where he was officially received by the Planning Minister and Deputy Director of the Red Crescent Society Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi.

The Qatar Ambassador in Kuwait, Ali Al Noaimi, the Assistant Undersecretary for Youth Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Abdul Rahman Al Mazroui, the general director of public cafes and members of the Red Crescent Society.

The adventurer said that his arrival in Kuwait marks the second stage of his trip around the world which started in Saudi Arabia. Saleh added that the journey aims at spreading over the world which he considers an international humanitarian duty.

Saleh will be going to Iraq, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, China and then Australia if permitted to enter. He pointed out that the journey will take as long as two years and a half to complete. One of the main difficulties he faced while passing through Saudi terrain were hot temperatures and humidity, he said, therefore, he tries to avoid travelling during the day.



A huge fire engulfs a large paper manufacturing company in Mina Al Abdulla industrial area.

GOIC study

Establish maintenance workshops

DOHA, Aug 6. (GNA): THE Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultancy (GOIC) has called for establishing maintenance workshops in each industrial area in the GCC states to provide maintenance services for small and medium industries. It said that this will greatly reduce high costs paid by factories to acquire its own maintenance workshops.

The study which was conducted recently said that small and medium industries in GCC states face real challenges and difficulties concerning maintenance in spite of the fact that they were established in modern industrial areas.

It added that the major problems facing Gulf industries concerning maintenance is the high costs of maintenance, lack of planned maintenance programmes, difficulty in obtaining some spare parts, exaggeration in storing some other spare parts and the lack of specialised maintenance personnel in industry.

Dependence

The study said that most of the GCC medium scale industries depend in its maintenance on its own workshops, thus bearing high costs. Small industries, however, cannot afford to acquire specialised maintenance equipment and thus have to depend upon external maintenance workshops. Such private workshops are widespread in most of the GCC industrial areas with the exception of a few of them. But these workshops lack the necessary operational requirements particularly relating to the supply of

spare parts. They also lack precision in repairs and operation, while some of them offer high quality service but they cannot meet the necessary maintenance services required by the factories.

The GOIC proposed that a central maintenance workshop should be established in each industrial area in the GCC states to provide maintenance services to small and medium industries. It said that such central workshops can carry out programmed maintenance in addition to some modifications in production lines. They can help in providing specialised technical staff to carry out preventive maintenance and provide technical consultancy to factories. But it stressed that the establishment of such central workshops should not mean that all factories should get rid of its own maintenance staff or other means as long as these prove to be economical and beneficial.

The study expected that such workshops can achieve a number of important services. They can potentially reduce the cost of maintenance and help in speedy import or replacement of damaged spare parts. The workshops can develop specialised staff in industrial maintenance and thus can provide efficient and accurate service.

Factories can also depend upon such workshops in obtaining spare parts and thus do not need to store them. They can also provide training to factories staff. GOIC said that here are chances to establish such workshops in Iraq, Oman and Kuwait.

Patients and escorts misbehave, say nurses

Nurses considered servants

A LOCAL daily interviewed a number of nurses at clinics and hospitals to obtain an overview of their opinions related to their medical profession.

The head of the nursing staff at Ibn Sina Hospital, Salia Al Sharah, stated that the profession of nursing is strongly related to dealing with all types of people and that it is but natural to face problems. She added that it is hard to satisfy all people at all times. But the real problem is that a large section of patients complain of a shortage in services. It is unfair to compare free health services with other countries whose health services are dispensed with a pre-condition of payment, she said.

She stressed that nurses are only human and may sometimes "not be up to the mark" due to external pressures while on duty. Many patients don't realise this fact. She pointed out that most of the nursing staff at the hospital encounter further problems from patients' escorts at hospitals rather than from patients themselves.

Muna Al Meel, a nurse for nine years, and currently working at the men's section in Ibn Sina Hospital, stated that dealing with male patients requires more tact as it is more sensitive than dealing with children or female patients. She added that most of the patients she deals with are elderly and that she considers them identical to children.

Some of the patients admitted to the hospital consider hospital workers along with utilities as their personal property. Therefore, they consider nurses as their servants and in turn behave according to this understanding.

Harassment

Muna added that nurses should forgive patients if subject to harassment and should acquire high spirits. Kuwait as a cosmopolitan society has many nationalities and therefore, nurses are more at ease in dealing with Arabic-speaking patients than expats. She said that usually expats require translators to clearly explain their ailments.

The ministers voiced dismay and disappointment at those regrettable developments in Lebanon and appealed to the higher Tripartite Arab Committee entrusted by the Arab League to resolve the Lebanese crisis to go ahead with its good offices to reach an end to that tragic situation.

The cabinet also urged all parties to co-operate with the committee which groups the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria, to stop the bloodshed in Lebanon and restore security, stability and national unity of that brotherly country.

The Council of Ministers took note of minutes of the committee of exempting families of deceased Kuwaitis from paying loans due on them to the Credit and Savings Bank. After considering the committee's recommendations in this regard, the cabinet approved them.

The meeting also discussed the problem of garbage, construction and industrial wastes with all its adverse hazards on health and environment, and called for curing this problem through modern and scientific concepts.

The cabinet urged departments concerned to speed up the establishment of a general centre of waste materials to deal with the problem more properly.

The council also discussed a number of other issues and adopted appropriate decisions on them.



A nurse at a Kuwait hospital scrubbing up before surgery.

Meanwhile, Zahra Abdul Imam, the assistant head nurse at the Kidney Centre has been working at this profession for the past ten years after graduating from the Nursing Institute. She said that the nursing profession, like any other, both has negative and positive aspects. But, she described it as a difficult job due to the fact that nurses deal with a wide variety of nationalities with varied outlooks.

She complained that some patients do not understand the definition of nursing. Such cases impose bigger pressure on nurses at the centre. She praised the role played by the Nursing Institute in effectively spreading awareness towards the value of this humane profession. She stated that society is presently having a different view towards the profession but still some wrong ideas exist. Not every man permits female relatives to work as nurses. It is still hard for men to accept that due to the innate nature of the job, nurses have to stay outside the home sometimes or may stay late. This is why the number of Kuwaiti nurses is low as compared with other nationalities.

Incentives

Zahra is a Kuwaiti and said that her husband has shown great support and fully understands the quality of her job. She added that Kuwaiti nurses find many incentives since they first joined the Nursing Institute. She said that she has received monthly bonuses while attending the institute, transportation and text books were free of charge in addition to training courses offered at hospitals. She pointed out that Kuwaiti nurses receive KD70 monthly in addition to their salaries as shift allowances.

At another location at Amiri Health area, an interview was conducted with Najat Zaman, the technical health supervisor for schools in the area. She pointed out that the profession of nursing requires further information coverage in order to encourage females to embrace this humanitarian profession in larger numbers.

Money markets

KUWAIT, Aug 6. (KUNA): A delegation grouping deputy director general of the Kuwaiti Money Market Abdulrahman Al Sdairawi, secretary General of Arab Bourses Union Dr. Sufak Al Rakabi and director of the Brokers Department at the Kuwait Money Market Mohamed Hassan today left here for

Samia Mohammed Husain, a Kuwaiti nurse working since 1977, called upon officials to provide outside clinics and health centres more security protection. She pointed out that most problems are referred to the administration usually and that at times harassment incidents are reported to the police. She said that the profession of nursing requires further information coverage in order to encourage females to embrace this humanitarian profession in larger numbers.

Begging is anathema to Kuwait: official

Use proper channels, people urged

ASSISTANT Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs for Mosques and Pilgrimage Abdul Rahman Al Fares has said that some people consider begging as a profession and an easy source of income. But, he added that begging is anathema to the State of Kuwait. The number of beggars has dropped due to the spread of Islamic awareness among people. We now see only few beggars at the doors of mosques, roads and in front of hospitals and banks compared to their numbers in the past, the official said.

He pointed out that Kuwaiti females may avoid joining the profession due to the shift system which requires working late night hours. Most families do not accept this fact; therefore, females are urged to form a relationship of trust between them and their families.

Shamali said that Kuwait society did not know the problem of begging since it was established because it is society of one family where its members support each other. There was no begging in Kuwait in the past. Presently, the state supports citizens through the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. He added beggars in Kuwait are non-Kuwaitis. They aim to get money illegally. Some women and children beg from houses, mosques and roads, he said. He added that begging is a social disease as well as a security problem. Some criminals pretend to beg and enter into houses for stealing and assaulting innocent people. He added that security staff are interested and concerned in taking required procedures to put an end to begging in the country. This can be achieved by chasing and deporting these beggars. We order some CID men to observe places in which beggars are active in order to arrest them. We also ask the public to notify police centres and patrols about places of these beggars, he said. He called on citizens and expatriates not to encourage beggars by refusing to give them money. The children who are seized begging are handed to their parents who sign a pledge for them. He denied that beggars in Kuwait work through an organisation or group that run this illegal work. Begging is on an individual basis, the official said.

There are many charitable institutions in Kuwait like Zakat House, the Islamic International Charity Organisation and Zakat committees in different mosques. There are also charitable committees like Daawa Committee and Charitable Support of Palestinian and Lebanese People Committee and the Social Reform Society, he said and added that charity should be routed through these channels.

Meanwhile, the director of security at Hawalli Governorate Colonel Abdul Aziz Al

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

NOTHING goes swifter than the years — Ovid, Roman poet (about 43 B.C. to 17 A.D.)

OPINION

Aoun answers distress signal

WILLY-NILLY. Gen. Aoun has become a national leader in Lebanon.

In the past, no one in Lebanon dared to talk about the invading forces, let alone do anything about it because they feared reprisals — the easiest of which was death through a sniper's bullet, or a booby-trapped car or a time-bomb or such other modus operandi in the arsenal of assassins.

After the death of the opponent, representatives of the invading forces used to participate in the funeral and issue a long communiqué on principles, emphasising their opposition to assassination, robbery and killings and their support for Arab nationalism, Islam and Muslims as well as for all religions in the world.

Gen. Aoun's arrival on the scene brought with him the true Lebanese cry which the Lebanese were whispering for fear of quick death. Aoun voiced what the Lebanese people dearly sought and restored its glorious past as a country of harmony, tranquillity and brotherhood. The country indeed needed a person who, with all candour and openness declared that the solution to the Lebanese crisis centred on the withdrawal of foreign forces.

Obviously, Aoun's cry is not only distressing to some within Lebanon itself — it echoes far beyond and could lead to a positive and important turnaround. An identical cry is sorely needed by other countries where its people are suffering. Perhaps, this is the secret behind Aoun's stiff resistance and the secret behind the insistence to still this voice at any cost.

But attempts to silence Aoun will be a Herculean "up-hill task." Suffice it to say that it is enough to mix with the Lebanese people to gauge their true feelings which have now begun to mushroom and understand why it is absolutely difficult for any opposition to defeat Aoun. Obviously, Aoun is simply representing Lebanon and the true feelings of its people. Any other surmise is contrary and must be classified as lies and attempts at distorting facts.

The demands and aspirations of the Lebanese people are crystal clear — they totally support Aoun's demands for a free and independent Lebanon. Additionally, the concepts of Aoun will have a reflection on other countries where the situation has reached unbearable limits.

If the failure of the Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon becomes an established fact (the committee did not hesitate to say who threw a "monkey-wrench" in the wheel of solution), Gen. Aoun will have the option to seek assistance from any source to force the invaders to leave.

The claim that they have the power will be of no avail — matters will be decided on the battlefield. The revenge of the Lebanese people against those who instigated the bloodshed will be of a severe magnitude this time around.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

PRESS REVIEW

The Observer (independent) on the hostages in Lebanon:

"Breathe it not too loud. But it is just possible that we are at the beginning of the last chapter of the awful hostage story in the Lebanon. At the beginning, it should be stressed, not the end itself. For all the comforting statements coming from Iran's new President, Hashemi Rafsanjani, the best the West can probably hope for is the early release of a minor hostage to show willing. The prizes, the Andersons and the Waites (if indeed Terry Waite is still alive) may have to languish for months, even years, before any negotiations can free them. Nor will it do to show too much of either eagerness or anger at this stage. Too much interest will simply raise the price in this most abominable of all trades. Too much anger will simply endanger their lives, and to no purpose. To talk, as some members of Congress do, of bombing Tehran and sending in the marines flies in the face of every act of history in the region. Anyone who knows anything about the hostage-takers understands that these are not men who can be frightened into giving up their most valuable acquisitions. . . . The reason for hope at this stage is that the politics of the region have changed. Iran has a new government, or rather the absence of an unyielding one, which is both more civilian in its composition and more flexible in its approach. It would be a mistake to believe that Rafsanjani is so eager for better relations with the West and that he is ready to do anything to achieve that end. But he and his colleagues appear to have reached the conclusion that the hostage situation needs to be solved if Iran is to move ahead. The belief will not necessarily translate itself into action. Rafsanjani has considerable factional opposition within . . . so the West must act with care and with patience. It needs to support Rafsanjani, but not so obviously as to arouse his opponents. It needs to negotiate, but not so enthusiastically as to what the appetites of the captors. It must show that the hostages really are a major obstacle to any future developments in the Middle East, but not so aggressively as to arouse new tensions." (AP)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1502 — French drive Spaniards from Canossa in southern Italy.
1647 — English army marches into London after proposals to crown are rejected.
1804 — US fleet bombards Mediterranean port of Tripoli.
1897 — Egyptian force takes Abu Hamid in Sudan.
1912 — Russia and Japan sign agreement determining spheres of influence in Mongolia and Manchuria.
1941 — Soviet planes carry out their first bombing raids against Berlin, Germany, in World War II.
1942 — US forces land on Guadalcanal in Pacific during World War II.
1945 — Soviet Union declares war on Japan seven days before Japanese surrender in World War II.
1959 — Chinese invade northeast frontier province of India.
1960 — Ivory Coast becomes independent of France.
1964 — People's republic of the Congo is inaugurated.
1971 — Three US Apollo 15 astronauts make safe splashdown in Pacific Ocean after their moon visit.
1975 — Lower House of India's Parliament approves constitutional amendment stripping courts of power to hear cases of thousands of people held as political prisoners.
1987 — Sikh separatists massacre 12 people in Punjab, India, and government declares security alert.
1988 — Three boats carrying almost 200 passengers capsized in Jamuna river in Bangladesh during earthquake, and about 30 people are feared drowned.

Communist Party takes a bashing

Shift in power structure

THE end of the new Supreme Soviet's first session marked a dramatic five-month period in which workers and upstart politicians aided by Mikhail S. Gorbachev shook the well-oiled communist machine's stranglehold on power.

Beginning with elections to the Congress of People's Deputies parliament in March, through the July coal miners' strike and the final days of the legislative session that ended Friday, officials who have dominated Soviet life for more than a half-century took an unprecedented bashing.

The party is still undoubtedly the strongest force in society, primarily because it has for decades crushed all potential opposition. Gorbachev's authority is not questioned. But those who traditionally have wielded power only because of their position in the apparatus were left dazed and unsure.

Faced with their first competitive elections, dozens of party members were humiliated by voters. Others were exposed to the fury of miners who can't buy enough soap. A half-dozen were rejected by the Supreme Soviet for cabinet jobs. New deputies criticised Gorbachev, rewrote tax and labour laws, and even suggested that Vladimir I. Lenin be removed from his mausoleum on Red Square and buried.

Deputies "literally burst onto the podium with their platforms, programme proposals, accusations," Premier Nikolai I. Ryzhkov told a high-level party meeting in July. "But the Politburo ended up over on the side, in some kind of isolated state, as if some paralysis syndrome were at work on it."

"A real and mighty power has appeared — the Congress of People's Deputies and the Supreme Soviet. And we cannot refuse to come to grips with it. If the party does not find a way out of this situation, it may lose its influence in running the government," Ryzhkov warned.

It was a small consolation that 85 per cent of the deputies are members of the party. Like never before, they are unconstrained by a strict party line.

Former candidate Politburo member Boris N. Yeltsin turned his rocky relationship with the party into a populist campaign against incompetence and special privilege. A week ago several hundred deputies joined him in forming the first organised parliamentary opposition in about 70 years.

Party organisations in the independent-minded Baltic republics are pressing local demands first, and then seeing how they fit Kremlin plans.

Some local leaders not only did nothing to control the coal strikes, they joined in.

Regional officials are pleading with Gorbachev to lay down the law on what it means to be a communist.

"It's time to clearly determine where is the limit of party and government discipline, and where is pluralism of opinion," Abasmat Masaliev, head of the party in the central Asian republic Kirghizia, told the party gathering.

"We don't see a hard line on ideological questions," added Leonid F. Bobykin, party leader in the Sverdlovsk region of Russia.

Lev N. Zaikov, party leader in Moscow and a member of the ruling Politburo, said the lack of clear direction has upset many local party organisations. They've reacted by doing nothing.



Gorbachev finds himself in two roles: both Luther and the Pope

Since the time of Lenin, a clear purpose and strong organisation have meant power for the Communist Party, even when it was badly outnumbered. For decades officials in the government, party, and semi-official organisations like trade unions, all in solid party standing, have been the glue that held the party together.

Today many of those people are confused and hesitant.

"How has this come about — a party organisation consisting of thousands, with its own newspapers, its own professional staff, with everything at its disposal, finds the initiative slipping out of its grasp?" Gorbachev mused.

The way out of the dilemma, he said, is to "eliminate the shortage of something tomorrow, or settle an ecological question or improve transit services."

Instead of handing local officials a detailed party line, he has shown that he even is willing to side with their critics.

It was Gorbachev who masterminded the electoral system that ended up embarrassing dozens of key party officials, including candidate Politburo member Yuri F. Solov'yov, who subsequently retired from his job as Leningrad regional party leader.

The strike by hundreds of thousands of miners reiterated that common people are taking to heart Gorbachev's call to action. This spasm of unrest for the first time was based on something all people have in common — the poor state of the economy.

Gorbachev sympathised with the strikers and promised changes.

Their activity gave Gorbachev a large but intangible victory in his drive to turn more power back to the people. However, that leads to the question at the heart of his reform effort: what will the people do with power if and when they get it?

There is no answer yet to that question. But at least one political scientist, Andronik Migranyan, wonders how long people will allow Gorbachev to lead them against the party apparatus he heads.

Gorbachev "practically found himself two roles: both Luther and the Pope," Migranyan wrote in the July issue of the respected monthly Novy Mir. "He wants to destroy the existing structures, and at the same time personifies those structures for the public. And certainly, lack of successes which are due to the clumsy function of the party and state structure weaken his role as leader."

Even Politburo members warn that if Gorbachev's authority slips and the party cannot improve its standing, the Soviet Union may split out of control.

An end to the Communists' hold on absolute power would be "simply deadly," said Conservative Yegor K. Ligachev. "A multi-party system would mean the breakup of the Soviet federation . . . because the Communist Party is the only real political force that binds and unites all people of the country into a single union of republics." (Moscow-AP)

East Germans driven by despair

Exodus continues at unparalleled rate

EAST GERMANS have been fleeing in record numbers this year, testing newly porous borders of the East and the hospitality of the West.

Western specialists attribute the rise in emigration and escape to a diminishing belief among East Germans that reforms elsewhere in the Soviet Bloc will soon affect their lives.

The number of despairing East Germans climbing, crawling and catapulting their way West has swelled to a rate unparalleled since the flood of escapees that was dammed by construction of the Berlin Wall on Aug. 13, 1961.

Private and government agencies who help settle refugees say they expect about 100,000 East Germans to make it to West Germany by the end of this year.

And those braving the heavily fortified borders are now joined by new breed of escapees who obtain legal permission to travel abroad, then refuse to return or escape through Hungary.

"It is a sense that grows stronger each day among East Germans that they have no hope, no perspective for better days as long as the current regime is in power," said Rainer Hildebrandt, director of the August 13th Society that aids East German refugees.

The fact that 50 per cent of those escaping now are under the age of 24 is testimony to the general despair felt there," Hildebrandt told the Associated Press.

About 10,000 East Germans with legal tourist visas have sought asylum in West Berlin so far this year, and at least 70,000 legal emigres are expected by the end of the year.

A West German official here who spoke on condition of anonymity confirmed there are at least 200

East Germans seeking asylum at Bonn's embassies in Budapest, Prague and East Berlin.

"We advise against this method as there are continuing dangers involved, and there is simply no way to accommodate people at the representation," the official said.

In Budapest, where an estimated 130 East Germans are seeking refugee status and access to West Germany, authorities have hinted that they may recognise a right to asylum, but no decisions have been made yet.

West Germany's deputy minister for inter-German relations, Walter Prieznitz, warned last week that East Germans should not try to leave through Hungary without the proper documents.

In the court of democratic reform, Hungary has dismantled nearly half of the 260-kilometre (160-mile) barbed-wire border separating it from the West. But Hungarian border guards still patrol the frontier.

Some East Germans who have tried to cross into Austria without East German exit visas have had their passports stamped by Hungarian authorities to reflect the illegal departure attempt.

Help

Austrian officials have been approached for help by 237 East Germans who fled across the border since the Hungarians began dismantling their stretch of the Iron Curtain in May. But they estimate up to six times that number have gone directly to the West German embassy in Vienna after arriving via Hungary.

West German diplomats in Vienna refuse to give any figures, but the Berlin official confirmed that East Germans are applying for West German papers at the Vienna Embassy in ever-increasing numbers.

More than 40 were at the embassy on Monday alone.

"They say, the barriers have been taken their way, as if you could stroll across with a suitcase in your hand," said an East German nurse at the Vienna Embassy. "It was hell," she said of her family's escape by darkness.

The nurse said the family drove their car with the lights out to within a few hundred metres of the border, then left it and most of their other possessions behind as they made their way across in darkness on foot.

The Hungarian interior ministry official responsible for refugee affairs, Judith Toth, has said a refugee camp will be erected in Budapest for those seeking asylum. The camp, first planned for ethnic Hungarians leaving Romania, would be open to all refugees seeking political asylum. But no protective facilities exist at the moment, and those seeking refuge at the West German embassy now may be forced to return to East Germany.

Detlef Kuehn, president of the Institute for Inter-German Affairs, told the Associated Press that the West German government advises East Germans to seek legal means of emigrating, but acknowledged that the majority of applicants must wait years.

"It is hopelessness that is driving so many here," Kuehn said. "There are no limits on the number of East Germans that we will take in. But we have no interest in depopulating East Germany."

One East Berliner, who did not want his name used, told the AP that East Germans are turning to Hungary as an escape route because the prospects for reform in their own nation seem ever dimmer.

(AP — Berlin)

Afghan war poses dilemma for doctors

treat the victims of the 10-year-old civil war between the Soviet-backed government and the Western-supported mujahedeen.

"We admit all war wounded that show up," Muheim said, adding that no distinction was made between soldiers, civilians or rebels disguised as civilians.

Treating the mujahedeen can be fraught with problems. "We deal with it very simply. We never ask questions," said Muheim, who is from Switzerland.

The hospital is in two big villas, with a general men's ward built in the gardens out of old freight containers.

Thousands of containers, which bring food and other goods to Kabul, are put to ingenious use by Kabulis — becoming instant garages, refugee homes or roadside shops.

Most of the time there are between 80 and 90 patients in the hospital, but it can squeeze in 150.

According to United Nations figures, 281 civilians were killed in Kabul between June 29 and the end of July and almost 750 were seriously wounded.

"Some patients we get after 10 to 15 minutes. If they had not got treatment within 30 minutes or so they would have died," Muheim said.

The critical time limit for treatment is six hours. After that infection sets in, particularly in war wounds where shrapnel or bullets drive pieces of

clothing and dirt deep into the body.

Unlike conventional surgery, such wounds are kept open for up to a week to make sure there is no infection.

Up to one-fifth of the patients are children.

Most are hurt by shrapnel, but some are badly burned by magnesium flares dropped by Soviet and Afghan aircraft to deflect rebel anti-aircraft missiles.

The giant Soviet IL-76 transports that bring food and weapons to the Kabul government split out to 150 of the flares as they spiral in and out of the airport.

Sometimes the flares, which leave a herringbone pattern of smoke in the sky, are still burning when they hit the ground or fail to ignite until found by inquisitive children.

Muheim, a 52-year-old surgeon who has worked in war hospitals in Pakistan, on the Thai border with Cambodia and in Beirut, said the injuries in Kabul were particularly nasty.

As he was speaking, doctors examined a 13-year-old boy called Sayed whose face had been horribly mutilated by a mine explosion seven months earlier.

Blind and unable to close his mouth, he had been sent to the hospital for surgery by a visiting American plastic surgeon.

But for the boy from the Panjsher Valley north of Kabul, and for many like him, the chances of normal life are slim. (Reuter Kabul)

ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 1989

Moment of truth nears in Cyprus

UN-sponsored talks on ending the 15-year-old division of Cyprus are approaching a moment of truth in the wake of a green line protest by Greek Cypriots, political sources said.

Tourists crowding coastal resorts rarely see the ugly scars of oil drums, barbed wire and minefields spreading east and west from the inland capital of Nicosia across the island's hot and dusty plains, made hotter by last month's protest.

BUSINESS

Cristiani faces uphill battle

SAN SALVADOR. Aug 6. (Reuter): El Salvador's new rightist government is attacking the country's staggering economic problems in a battle foreign experts see as critical in shaping the outcome of a nine-year-old civil war.

"The war will not be won militarily," a senior US military adviser said recently. "The solution is in the economic aspect."

In attempting to cure the economy, and perhaps tip the balance in the civil war in its favour, President Alfredo Cristiani appears to be chasing a goal as elusive as defeating El Salvador's tenacious left-wing insurgency.

Cristiani took office on June 1 and soon discovered the country's Central Bank was \$160 million in debt and without foreign reserves.

El Salvador's exports fell to \$609 million in 1988 from \$1.1 billion in 1979 before the outbreak of the war. The Central Bank recently put the country's trade deficit at \$500 million.

The government is dependent on foreign aid, especially to reduce the gap in its balance of payments and pay for public works. In 1988 El Salvador received about \$350 million in direct foreign assistance, \$14 million from the United States.

The aid accounted for about seven per cent of the country's GDP of \$4.8 billion.

Added to the bleak panorama is the recent nosedive in the international price of coffee, El Salvador's main export, which brought in \$358 million in 1988, representing 59 per cent of the country's export income.

The civil war has also ravaged the country's economy. Guerrilla economic sabotage alone is estimated to have caused \$1.7 billion in damages since 1979.

Cristiani, a 42-year-old millionaire coffee grower, recently outlined his government's market-oriented economic plan aimed at reducing inflation and spurring exports while creating 20,000 jobs a month during non-war months.

He said the government would eliminate price controls for 230 non-basic goods and for all but lowest income transport. The plan also includes increases in interest rates and higher electricity charges, except for the poorest users, industry and commerce.

"Let supply and demand regulate prices," he said in a nationally televised speech, saying the moves will promote output while allowing the government to shore up its finances.

But in El Salvador, a country of 5.2 million where nearly half the workforce is unemployed, not everyone is convinced the Cristiani government has the time or political mileage.

"The question is will the political situation and the political opposition allow them to do the things they're trying to do?" said one Western diplomat.

Exchange rates

Indian rupee	18.010
Sri Lankan rupee	8.400
Pakistani rupee	14.210
Bangladesh taka	9.120
US dollar	29685
Pound sterling	47750
Deutsche mark	15590
UAE dirham	08088
Japanese yen	002132

Fundamentals of HK-China economic ties unchanged

Economy likely to achieve 5pc growth rate

IN spite of the sad episode in Beijing recently, the prospect of the China market need not be written off, according to Jack So, executive director of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

The fundamentals of the economic relationship between China and Hong Kong have not changed and manufacturing in the Pearl River Delta and cross-border trade has been carried out virtually undisturbed by the events in northern China he said.

The fact that the current Chinese leaders lost no time in reaffirming to the world China's open-door policy along with their eagerness to re-invite foreign investment shows how much they value economic ties with the West, he said.

Speaking at a Business Orientation Programme luncheon by the American Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong, So said that the worst possible option is to impose economic sanctions, which would only serve to drive China, once again, into isolation.

While it is understandable that individuals may take steps to pursue the "insurance passport", it must not be interpreted as the ultimate "abandonment" of Hong Kong.

"So long as we keep business going, we have a good chance of keeping our paradise here and not finding it on some remote island."

"In times past, Hong Kong has reacted to adversity with renewed vigour and determination, and succeeded every time in coming out stronger in the end," he added.

He stressed the fact remains that China needs Hong Kong, and the world needs Hong Kong. "Our job now is to continue Hong Kong's economic success."

NEW YORK. Aug 6. (UPI): The jobless rate eased in July. 46 traders at two Chicago commodities exchanges were indicted for alleged illegal practices and six were convicted in the first racketeering trial of securities prime.

The Labour Department said Friday the nation's jobless rate eased 0.1 percentage point in July to 5.2 per cent, encouraged by job opportunities in service industries.

The economy created 169,000 jobs last month, more than the 160,000-job rise expected by many economists. The government also significantly revised upward its estimate of June job growth from a modest 180,000 to a healthy 250,000.

Although the revision could help alleviate concerns that a recession is imminent, analysts said stocks and bonds slipped as investors became worried that the unemployment news would temporarily halt the recent easing in interest rates.

Recent data pointing to a slowdown in economic growth has prompted the Federal Reserve Board to let the Fed funds rate ease to about 9 per cent, encouraging the nation's major banks to lower their prime interest rates.

Earlier in the week, five former executives of Princeton/Newport partners and a former junk bond trader with Drexel Burn-

ham Lambert Inc. were convicted in the first use of the Federal Racketeering Law against securities executives.

The six were charged with conspiring to create bogus tax losses through rigged trades.

Prosecutors said Princeton/Newport sold securities at a loss and then, under a prior arrangement, bought them back at the same or slightly higher prices in a practice known as stock parking.

The 18 Chicago traders charged with racketeering or racketeering conspiracy face up to 20 years in jail and fines of up to \$250,000.

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EVENTS

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Sabah Al Khor News and variety
9.30 Iftah Ya Simsim: Children's cultural programme
10.00 Magazine D'Actualite
10.15 Mahlian Ayoha Al Omr: Arabic serial (Part 3)
11.00 Sabah Al Khor News and variety
11.20 Ezzaaj: Local serial (part 12), starring Ghalem Al Saleh, Zainab Al Dhahi, Maryam Al Ghadban and Dawood Hussain
12.00 Sabah Al Khor News and variety
12.35 News summary
1.00 The World Today via Satellite
1.30 Sport: Billy: cartoon serial
2.15 Al Mehrath: Wa Elboor: Arabic serial (Part 2)
3.00 Mawaqif Wa Khotab: cultural programme
3.30 Billfers: cartoon serial
4.00 Meeraat Al Senen: historical serial (Part 7), starring Mahmoud Abu Ghareeb, Nadeem, Mohammed Al Qabbani
5.45 Children and summer: local programme, prepared by Samya Mohammed
6.30 Night: Chemists, airlines and official announcements
7.00 The World of Tomorrow: cultural programme
7.30 Variety
7.45 Holy Quran and Science: prepared and presented by Dr Ahmad Shawqi Ibrahim
8.30 Around the World: local cultural programme
9.00 News in Arabic
9.30 Omsiyat Al Ethneen: local programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Barjees



Dawood Hussain in 'Ezzaaj', local Arabic serial on KTV 1 at 11.20 today.

KTV 2

6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
6.10 Bionic Six: cartoon serial
6.30 Scheme of Things: the development of paper industry, new energy sources and other topics
7.00 Roving Report: a weekly report of regional and world news
7.30 Charles-in-Charge: Charles makes future plans
8.00 News in English
8.40 Paradise: 'A House Divided.' Paradise is



The 227th cast on KTV 2 at 9.30 pm today.

New Arab cabin crew go into action

BRITISH Airways has welcomed back to the region the first group of new Arab cabin crew following a 'wings' ceremony in London at the successful completion of their training programme.

The thirty Arab nationals, recruited from more than 1,000 applicants from throughout the region, are being based at

the airline's new cabin crew centres in Bahrain and Cairo.

They will operate as additional members of the cabin crew on British Airways flights between the Middle East and Britain, and will be responsible for looking after the special needs of all Arab passengers during the flight.

"Our new cabin crew are an

essential element in British Airways' programme of product enhancement for our Arab passengers," said Adel Ali, British Airways manager, Bahrain.

"This first group are to be congratulated on the high standards they achieved during training and we are looking forward to them being joined by another set of recruits in

August," he added.

The intensive six-week training course at Heathrow included first aid and safety procedures in addition to familiarisation with aircraft equipment and cabin service procedures. All crew are trained to operate both Boeing 747s and TriStars.

"Our new cabin crew are an



British Airways Bahrain Manager, Adel Ali (back row, 5th from left) joins some of British Airways' new Arab cabin crew at their 'wings' ceremony in London.

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Red Scorpion
Al Salmiya
Revenge of the Nerds II
Al Hamra
Ultimate Force
Drive-In
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Ustaad
Starring: Vinod Khanna, Jay Prada
Fahheel Open-air
Aas Paas
Al Fahheel
Incredible Kung Fu Mission
Al Jabra
Three the Hard Way
Granada
Berji the Hunted
Al Sulaihikat
Shaolin Magnificent
Al Jleeb
Bat Boy
Ahmadi Drive-in
Batteries Included

NIGHT CHEMIST

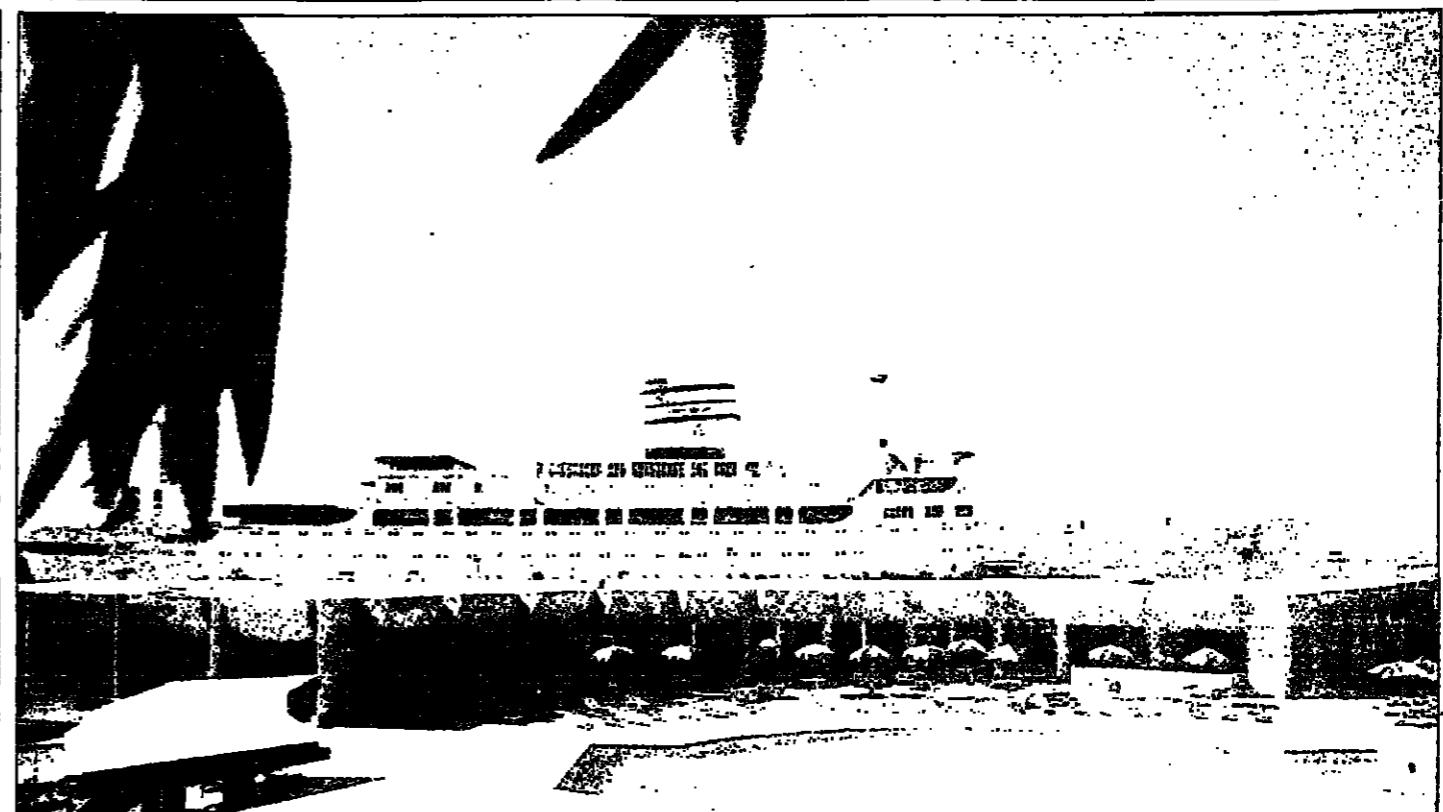
Kuwait
Al Watan Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem Street, Jawaheer Al Khaleej Building
Al Amal Pharmacy
Mubarak Al Kabeer Street, opp. to Fabric market
Hawalli and Nogra
Al Kuwait Pharmacy
Nugra, Qutayba Street, Property of Naser Al Saqobi
Salmiya and Rumaihiya
Sahara Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak Street, Property of Fahad Al Zabin
Fahheel and Ahmad
Safad Pharmacy
Fahheel, Makkah Street, Property of Faisal Al Dabous
Jleeb Al Shuyoukh
Al Nomran Pharmacy
Opp. to Jleeb School
Jazira
Al Zahra Pharmacy
The new commercial market

10.00 Al Motassiliqoon: daily Arabic serial (Part 3)
11.00 Iftimalat: cultural programme
12.00 News Summary
12.05 The World Today via Satellite
12.30 Holy Quran and Closedown

10.30 Tales of the Unexpected: "What Have You Been Up To Lately?" Two friends meet after 25 years and as they discuss who should have married the woman, an announcement is made on the radio...

10.30 Jack and Mike: "High Anxiety." Mike decides to adopt vagrants and finds himself involved with drug traffickers. Starring: Shelly Hawk and Tom Mason

11.45 News Summary: Magazine D'Actualite; Holy Quran/Closedown



Ramada's sea food festival

Every evening at the Ramada's El-Bendar Coffee Shop, enjoy the sumptuous sea food buffet from 7 pm until midnight, where you can taste the biggest selection of Ramada's jumbo shrimps, fresh mixed fish, Atlantic main lobsters and today's fisherman's catch in any way you like to make your mouth water.

Little Mr and Miss Philippines rehearsal



Little Mr and Miss Philippines with organisers

Richard Norman H. Mercado, Rhalston Anthony Dagdag, Philip T. Bharawaj, Ruel T. Austria, Nasser Al Nazer, Andrewpol C. Rellora, Ahmad Tariq Sairat, Salam Tariq Sairat, Richard Macken.

Little Miss

Kaurina B. Nacario, Michelle S. Acosta, Maria Trinida Asuncion, Derdre Macken, Tara Macken, Marjan Matin, Pamela Rose Rojo, Michelle Santos, Shiehah Mehrille Santos, Maria Lourdes S. Inserto, Jessica S. Unico, Gilyn Grace N. de Vera, Melanie N. de Vera.

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.44 am
Zuhr	11.54
Asr	3.29 pm
Maghreb	6.35
Isha	8.00

● All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

HOTELS

At the Kuwait Plaza
TEMPTING lunch and dinner. A wide variety of all sorts of delicious, home-made and sumptuous dishes with real Lebanese mezzeh and delights of Arabic and French sweets plus fruits of the season.

KALPAK's exhibition
SEPT 15: Women's wing of Keralaa Art & Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait (KALPAK) will hold an exhibition of Indian Arts & Handicrafts at the Indian Embassy Hall from 3 pm to 8 pm.

Fiesta Filipina
UNDER the auspices of the Philippine embassy here in Kuwait, the Filipino Cultural Club, under the competent leadership of Buddy Patungan, proudly announces to its clamouring fans the comeback of "Fiesta Filipina '89" with the original cast at its original venu — where else, but at the spacious elegantly-fit Al-Jahra Ballroom of the Meridien Hotel.

Participants are kindly requested to submit their Civil ID Card photocopies to Tolits Matig-A, the club's director on social and cultural affairs. Rehearsals commence on Friday, Aug 11, 1989. There will be a general meeting also for all his working committee on this date.

For more particulars, contact: Marie - 4317256. Tolits - 2417766. For ticket reservations, contact: Florence - 2436121 or 2439451.

LA PALMA: Presents a culinary trip around the world featuring authentic Chinese, Indian, Mexican, African, Italian, British, German/Austrian, Turkish and Arabic dishes. Theme nights on Saturdays and Tuesdays. Ext 8166.

Failaka: Rooftop restaurant overlooking Kuwait's picturesque coastline. Offers international cuisine and elegant surroundings. Live entertainment during dinner. Closed on Friday. Ext 8102.

Garden Pool: Relax and enjoy our poolside barbecue event every Friday afternoon.

La Patisserie: Offers an extensive selection of pastries, oven fresh bread, savouries, exotic juices and ice creams. Also serves Continental breakfast. Pianist in the evenings.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Sat - Wed, 8 - 9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursdays and Fridays.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 4.00 to 7.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.

Tareq Rajab Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to 12 noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

SOCIAL

Kapilkul exhibition
SEPT 15: Women's wing of Keralaa Art & Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait (Kapilkul) will hold an exhibition of arts and handicrafts at the Indian embassy hall from 3 pm to 8 pm. Those interested to show their own creation, please contact on telephone Nos: 5632708/4316737/5626620.

Konkani drama
AUG 11: A Konkani drama entitled "Battli Anji Bazaar," directed by Pascoal Rodrigues will be held at the Indian Arts Circle, Funaittees at 10 am and 4 pm. Gate passes are available at Raja Stores and Alex Martins Shop.

Independents ball
AUGUST 17: At the Mesilla Beach Hotel from 8.30 pm onwards. Organised by

Colva Nite
OCT 19: Annual Colva Nite at New Ball Room of Ramada Al Salem Hotel. Top Ranks in attendance. For details contact tele: 2413884/2434776/562914-1/4310913 after 5 pm.

Star Nite

DEC 21: Star Nite at Ramada Salam 'Al Dira' with Perfect Strangers music. Children entry KD.3/- from 2-1/2 years to 12 years. Others KD.4/- with sumptuous buffet. Fabulous hamper prizes and

Kuwait Independents Hockey. For tickets and details contact F. D. Mello (2421252) or S. Bajaj (2445825) after 7.30 pm.

Tivim Centre

OPEN Sat - Wed, 8 - 9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursdays and Fridays.

Islamic Arts Museum

SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to 12 noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House

SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

SOCIAL

Kapilkul contest
AUGUST 25: Kapilkul will hold the Little Mr and Ms Philippines. Kuwait, contest at Showbiz Pizza place, Salma. This coincides with Aravang Mga Bata (Children's Day). For details contact Jojo Medrano, AVP, welfare and special projects, VCP Rosafe Austria or VP Sarah Macarimbang on 2530000/8050.

Kapilkul contest

AUGUST 25: Kapilkul will hold the Little Mr and Ms Philippines. Kuwait, contest at Showbiz Pizza place, Salma. This coincides with Aravang Mga Bata (Children's Day). For details contact Jojo Medrano, AVP, welfare and special projects, VCP Rosafe Austria or VP Sarah Macarimbang on 2530000/8050.

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FILMS

At the British Council

ANGEL, 6.30 pm on Saturday, Aug 12 and Sunday Aug 13, having been witness to the bombing of a dancehall and the killing of innocent people. Danny begins his personal quest for vengeance. This tough thriller was written and directed by Neil Jordan. No entrance fee, but you are advised to reserve seats, 2515512/2533204/2533227.

Star Nite

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Star Nite

Farmers use rockets in battle

Swiss hailbusters

By Michael Shields

WHEN storm clouds come boiling over Lake Zurich towards Ernst Spoehel's cornfields, the Swiss farmer knows just how to prevent a vicious hailstorm from devastating his crops.

His sense of imminent danger honed by 20 years of experience, Spoehel rushes to his barn, loads a small plastic rocket with a packet of silver iodide, and fires it 2,000 metres (yards) into the clouds.

"You can see the front coming, and when you have the feeling that danger is near, you start to shoot," he explains.

Spoehel and hundreds of other farmers are convinced they immunise the clouds against hailstorms by peppering the skies with their rockets.

Scientists and insurers are more sceptical.

Both sides agree hailstones form when masses of cool and warm air collide, causing small droplets of moisture in the air to condense around particles of dust and freeze. Strong winds can suck the particles as high as eight km (five miles), growing as they rise until they are so heavy they fall as hailstones.

In theory, at least, the exploding silver iodide packets cause the moisture to crystallise into a countless but tiny bits of ice that melt into harmless raindrops as they fall.

Farmers around the world live in fear of hailstones that can pound their crops into the earth.

"A heavy storm can produce stones as big as an egg," notes Hans Scharpf, spokesman for the Swiss Hail Insurers Association.

Hailstorms are especially prevalent around mountain ranges like the Alps, which block moving air masses and force them to dump precipitation on whatever lies below.

To meet the threat, Swiss farmers have been firing silver iodide into clouds since the 18th century, says Spoehel, a board member of the Swiss association to combat hail.

Around 190 communities in the German and French-speaking parts of Switzerland are



Swiss farmer Ernst Spoehel prepares a silver iodide-loaded anti-hail rocket for launching.

members of the association, and many help finance the hailbusting rockets, which cost around 80 Swiss francs (\$50) each. Spoehel's village of Meilen contributes 5,000 francs (\$3,100) a year, for instance.

Interest is growing in the Italian-speaking southern canton on Ticino as well. Spoehel says.

Spoehel, a ruddy-faced oak of a man whose meaty hands almost engulf one of his rockets, is a prime example of the homespun scientists who swear by the system.

He said his rockets have

protected him from hail except for one time when a storm front moved into the area so quickly the rockets had no time to take effect.

A barometer hangs on the kitchen wall, but he gleaned most of his weather information from his cable television, which broadcasts satellite pictures of Europe and regular updates on humidity, wind speed and air pressure.

This year has been relatively calm, but some bad seasons have prompted him to fire rockets seven or eight times. Two projectiles at a time suffice to guard his

land, and his neighbours can launch their own rockets when and where needed.

"In hilly areas like this, it is very difficult to judge when the front will be over the next village," he explains.

News of impending rocket attacks is passed along to air traffic controllers, who warn aircraft to stay away from farmers drawing a bead on storm fronts moving in.

The farmers get their rockets from Hans Hamberger AG, a fireworks manufacturer that is Switzerland's sole supplier of the devices.

Manufacturing chief Kurt Abeggan says Hamberger sells between 2,000 and 3,000 each year, almost all to Swiss customers, some to Sweden and Africa.

Exports have pretty much dried up, especially to Africa. "I guess the rockets got to expensive," he reasons.

Swiss customers who live outside communities willing to back hailbusters financially have to foot the bill themselves because insurers question how well they work.

Schärf of the Hail Insurers Association thinks the rockets provide more psychological than actual relief, saying most proponents take out large hail insurance policies as well.

"These people are farmers, and sometimes they have to watch a storm destroy their crops in the space of 10 minutes," he says. "That is a whole year's work just wiped out. They have to try everything they can. Whether it works or not is another question, but they have to do something."

Swiss hail insurers, who pay around 45 million Swiss francs (\$28 million) annually for crop damage, helped finance a seven-year study by the Federal Institute of Technology that used large Russian rockets to seed clouds, Schärf says.

According to that experience it had no effect whatsoever. There was just as much damage done by storms where rockets were fired as there was when no rockets were fired.

By Daniel Barehblatt

"THE universe," said Einstein "is like an endless corridor of open doors, each of which presents a rubber welcome mat that covers the wrong key." Well, actually Einstein never said that, but he certainly could have, given the proper frame of mind and enough sherry. Like other great and lesser minds, he understood that man may never unravel all the cosmic mysteries. And chief among these enigmas is the amazing psychic prowess of Raoul Babbo, a man who seems to have attained contact with the fourth dimension, or possibly the fifth (who can figure out these damn new community zoning laws?).

Of course, science says that such Babbo feats as the telekinetic propulsion of paperweights are impossible. And science says that the law of conservation of matter and energy may never be defied. Now quick — put your hands on your head! Aha — got you. I didn't say, "science says." The point is that many of Babbo's proven abilities evade rational explanation, especially if he lets you cut the deck. Undoubtedly, a brief biography is in order.

Pre-birth

There is evidence that Raoul Babbo could control the course of the future even before it was apparent that he was to have one. How else to explain the fact the Raoul was receiving mail before he was born? His mother reports: "I would be in the kitchen, polishing the linoleum or something, when all of a sudden the doorbell would ring and the postman would be there, handing me copies of *Car and Driver* and *Glamour*, mail-order X-ray specs,

Psychic sniggers

Hickory Farms catalogues — all manner of junk mail, addressed to him. And I didn't even know I was pregnant!" Interestingly enough, the precocious Babbo wishfully tried to order such spurious journals as *Playboy* and *Womb and Country*. Because of the subscription fees and postage due, the bewildered Babbos were forced to leave the safe, clean suburbs of Shaker Heights and take up residence in Northwest Wyoming, a land with no zip code.

Childhood

Raoul Babbo's telepathy burst into full flower by age 10, making him the class "rocks, paper, scissors" champ. Still, the young Babbo had to grow into his powers gradually; he was a mischievous child by all accounts. A favourite prank was to call giddy neighbours and predict whether or not their refrigerator was running. On at least one occasion he had telekinetically hurled a dozen unorderly pizzas through space, causing them to land at random doorsteps throughout town, with bill and receipt attached. All this by age 12—astounding when one considers that the best Russian psi-prodigies can seldom lob blintzes until well after their adolescence. And even then only during a chess game.

It didn't take long for word of Babbo's uniqueness to reach the Pentagon, and upon graduation from high school, he was offered a position as psychic advisor to the military.

FRIENDS often ask me if I can remember exactly where I was and what I was doing when the first shot of the French Revolution was fired. I recall it well.

I was working for People magazine at the time, and they sent me to France to do another feature on Marie Antoinette and her family. It was my fourth story about them. The reason that People had such an interest in the French court was because every time we put Marie on the cover, sales soared.

On a beautiful October morning in 1789 I arrived at Versailles at about 7 a.m. and was surprised to see such a large crowd out front. I assumed that they were tourists on an American Express tour although they were shouting things like, "The royal family sucks eggs."

I told the guard at the gate that I was from People magazine and he let me in immediately. My magazine was read by everyone at the court and the guards had a standing order to admit me whenever I came by.

The Art Buchwald Column

Vive la revolution!

The gatekeeper directed me toward the kitchen where I would find Marie Antoinette. This was a break because I had never photographed her doing any domestic chores before.

When I entered, I found the queen bedecked in a royal apron attended by six ladies-in-waiting.

"What are you making?" I asked her.

"Brownies," she smiled. "I am sure it will quiet the rabbles."

"I don't understand," I said.

She explained, "The mob has been shouting for bread all night long, but I'm not going to give them any. I know what the French need, and it's something sweet with chocolate in it."

I was snapping pictures. "This is wonderful. The photo caption will read, 'Queen Saves Her Throne in Versailles Bakeoff.' "

evenly." The guard returned.

"The mob is coming up the stairs," he cried. "They want to throw the entire family into the dungeon."

"They do now," Marie

Antoinette said, "but when they taste my brownies they will be buying me furs and diamonds."

"She turned to me and asked, 'Would you like me to stand by the stove with my Russian wolfhound?'

I told her that would be great, but first I wanted a picture of her serving the brownies to the peasants. I didn't have to wait long.

The crowd crashed through the door screaming "bread" and the queen offered them brownies. To a man and woman, they sank to their knees and begged her for the recipe.

I didn't photograph Marie again until Oct. 16, 1793, and, as I was a foreigner, I had a front seat at her execution. On Oct. 20, 1793, People magazine ran its last cover photo of Marie Antoinette. It was a head shot.

1989 Los Angeles Times Syndicate

From your wig?" I exclaimed.

"Yes, it's a trick I learned from my German grandmother. You put the sugar inside the wig and then shake your head and the powder falls out."

1989 Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Something you are earning will

now reach a difficult stage: per-

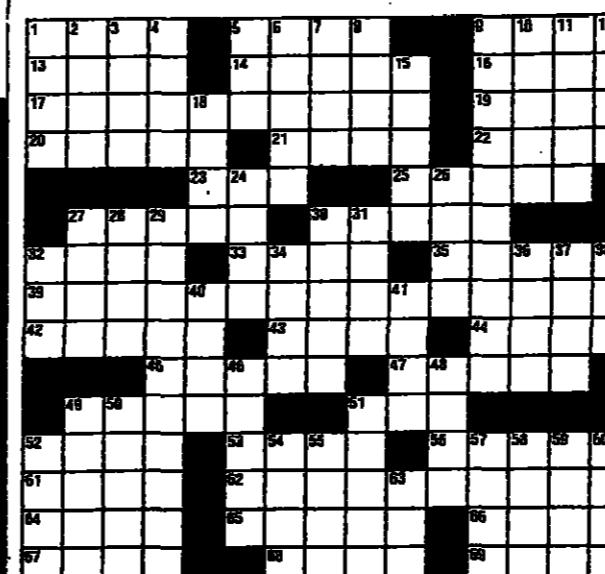
severe. Be moderate. Give your-

self enough room for manoeuvre.

Make sure you do not allow dirt to

accumulate.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Wander
- 5 Too bad!
- 9 Cut
- 13 Eternally
- 14 Ship parts
- 18 Eight Comb.
- 19 Goes into business
- 20 Jogs
- 21 Sign of sorrow
- 22 Word on a towel
- 23 Hesitant sounds
- 25 Lyric poem
- 27 Old hat
- 30 Soak in water
- 32 Cunning
- 33 Baron
- 35 Swords
- 42 Skilled
- 43 Lincoln and Beame
- 44 Word for a busybody
- 45 Buddhist's cosmic justice
- 47 Corner
- 49 "Aida" or "Carmen", e.g.
- 51 Before, to a
- 52 Competent
- 53 Speck
- 54 Bridal path
- 55 Make haste
- 56 Close for the day
- 57 Town near Padua
- 58 Live coal
- 59 Philippine native
- 60 Wise person
- 61 Sound mind
- 62 Notices
- 63 Portico
- 64 Market
- 65 Tennis name of fame
- 66 Pintado
- 67 Corpulent
- 68 Down
- 69 Tide
- 70 Part of a table setting
- 71 Corroded
- 72 Pub drinks
- 73 Units of resistance
- 74 Brass instrument
- 75 Doctrines
- 76 Pump, for one
- 77 Traditional knowledge
- 78 Heroic poem
- 79 Yorkshire river

DOWN

- 1 Take ten
- 2 Finished
- 3 Vote against
- 4 Former, formerly
- 5 Elec. unit
- 6 Endures
- 7 Tennis name of fame
- 8 Portico
- 9 Market
- 10 Painted
- 11 Ogle
- 12 Gluttons
- 13 Toot
- 14 Employs
- 24 Trust, with "on"
- 26 Nobleman
- 27 Encourage
- 28 Blemish
- 29 Tradesman
- 30 Brazilian dance
- 31 Fir or fig
- 32 MDs' org.
- 33 Eastern title
- 34 EPA concern
- 35 Facilitate
- 36 Foxy
- 37 Get toy biting
- 38 Anagram for 40
- 39 Pintado
- 40 Poker play
- 41 Down
- 42 Tide
- 43 Corpulent
- 44 Part of a table setting
- 45 Corroded
- 46 Pub drinks
- 47 Units of resistance
- 48 Brass instrument
- 49 Doctrines
- 50 Pump, for one
- 51 Traditional knowledge
- 52 Heroic poem
- 53 Yorkshire river

THE WIZARD OF ID



By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

B.C.



By Johnny Hart

YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You must ensure you do not associate speed with superficiality. Avoid trying to run before you can walk. Take a little more interest in what is happening around you. Be generous.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

Do not confuse curiosity with busyness. Let others have their say. Make sure you do not do anything that might be injurious to your health. Be practical.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

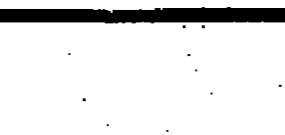


Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

Do not allow yourself to be taken advantage of. However do not expect others to do everything for you. Take greater care when on the road. Be a little more conscientious.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

Avoid leaving until later something that should be done now. You are liable to mistake what is not for what is important. Try to spend a little longer in the open

ARAB TIMES

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3. Advertisements must not exceed 25 words including name and telephone number.
4. Text must be typed or clearly printed. No alterations or cancellations will be made after publication.
5. Advertisements of personal nature involving business transactions will not be accepted, nor any matrimonial advertisements.
6. The Arab Times is not responsible for postal delays.

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SPORTS

Lemond wants to race for US team in 1990

MONTREAL, Aug. 6 (AP): Tour de France champion Greg Lemond said yesterday he hopes to race for an American team next season, but that such a team wouldn't have to be stocked only with American riders.

"It's unrealistic to think you can win a race like the Tour de France with an all-American team," Lemond said after arriving in Montreal for today's Grand Prix de l'Amériques, a 100-kilometer event on the new cycling World Cup circuit.

"We don't have that depth of quality in the

United States. You need some European riders to give you that depth."

American teams are on Lemond's mind since he won the Tour de France from Frenchman Laurent Fignon on the final day of the three-week race on July 23. Lemond, 28, is seeking to leave the ADR team from Belgium and said he wants to race for an American squad or, if not, a French team.

"I haven't decided yet, but most likely it's going to be an American team," he said. "I want to come back. I've raced in Europe a long time

and I think for cycling in America, it's better for me to be associated with an American team."

Rumours surfaced last week that the US-based 7-Eleven team had offered Lemond a \$1.1 million contract, the richest in the sport, and that Lemond may form his own team with his sponsor, Coors.

International Professional Cycling Union rules prohibit making offers to another team's riders while they are still under contract. Lemond admitted only that he was in negotiations to change teams.

ADR, owned by a Belgian car rental company, reportedly has been as much as a month late in payments to its riders all season.

"My contract has been continuously broken since January 1," Lemond said.

Lemond said with a grin that 7-Eleven was strong enough to win a Tour de France "if I'm on it."

"Andy Hampsten is a big talent, he's won The tour of Italy. They've got some good riders but they are not exclusively American. They've got a mixture of riders."

McKinley in stable condition

SACRAMENTO, California, Aug. 6 (UPI): Scott McKinley, leader of the 1988 US Olympic cycling road team, crashed into a post with six laps to go in a 42-mile (67-km) race Friday fracturing 12 ribs.

McKinley, 20, was in stable condition yesterday at the University of California's Davis Medical Centre. Doctors said he would be out of action for several months but did not consider the injury career-threatening.

Besides massive rib damage, the hometown rider had a collapsed left lung and internal bleeding, said Dr Daniel Benson.

However, the bleeding had stabilized. McKinley was in stable condition and would probably not require surgery.

Benson, who was on the old Sacramento criterium race course as a volunteer, said he saw McKinley crash alone as he became jammed by other riders on a paved section of road next to cobblestones along the Sacramento riverfront.

The cyclist slammed into a heavy wooden road marker at about 30 mph (48 kph), he said.

"For about a minute, I couldn't breathe," the rider said from his hospital bed yesterday. "The pain was unbearable."

The accident for the pre-race favourite occurred a year to the day that McKinley won the US Olympic trials in Spokane, Washington, to lead a three-man road team to Seoul. He was to leave for Europe next week to finish the season with other members of the 7-Eleven team.

Doctors said he may be out of action for at least six weeks — and possibly the rest of the season.

Coincidentally, the same hospital emergency room team also worked on two-time Tour de France winner Greg Lemond following his near-fatal shooting accident two years ago.

In Friday night's race Chris Huber of the rival Coors Light team was the winner, finishing in 1 hour, 29 minutes and 25 seconds. Frankie Andreu of 7-Eleven was second and Dave Farmer of Crest was third, both in 1:29:33.

Audreau had been trailing McKinley, who finished second in last year's Sacramento race, when the crash occurred.

"We were working for Scott, hoping to get him a win," Andreu said. "But we had to keep racing afterwards."

In the women's 28-mile (45 km) race, Katrin Tobin won in 1 hour, 57 minutes and seven-tenths of a second. She was followed by teammates Sally Zack and Ruthie Matthes, each in 1:07:57.

Daniel holds four-shot lead

BETHESDA, Md., Aug. 6 (Reuter): Beth Daniel, seeking her first victory in four years, boosted her lead to four shots after posting a three-under-par 68 in the second round of the 54-hole Greater Washington Open golf tournament.

Daniel, who held a one-stroke lead after an opening 66, stood at eight-under-par 134 going into the final round of the \$300,000 event.

Jean-Philippe Durand, who converted a sleek corner from West Germany's Klaus Alföls.

After their defeat at the hands of Toulouse last week, Marseille found their form at home against Metz, with their Uruguayan import Enzo Francesconi scoring on his first match with the Mediterranean club.

Bordeaux owed their win to

Jean-Philippe Durand, who converted a sleek corner from West Germany's Klaus Alföls.

After their defeat at the hands of Toulouse last week, Marseille found their form at home against Metz, with their Uruguayan import Enzo Francesconi scoring on his first match with the

Mediterranean club.

Langer and Gilder share golf lead

Giants blank Astros

Mets overcome Expos

Montreal as the Expos fell into a first-place tie with Chicago in the National League East.

Brewers 7, Reds 1

Darrell Evans' tie-breaking home run in the fourth inning, one of four solo shots hit by

Red Sox 10, Indians 2

Danny Heep and Jody Reed had solo homers in the sixth inning and Wade Boggs hit another to ignite a seven-run seventh inning as the Boston Red Sox ended a three-game losing streak with a 10-2 victory over the Cleveland Indians yesterday.

Mike Smithson, 6-9, scattered

six hits, all singles, for seven

innings and Dennis Lamp completed the victory, snapping Cleveland's three-game winning streak.

John Farrell, 6-11, took the loss.

Heep, barting cleanup with Mike Greenwell disabled by a sprained ankle, also had a pair of doubles to go with his 28th homer in eight Major League seasons.

Yankees 5, Blue Jays 4

Ken Phelps hit a pinch-hit two-run homer in the top of the eighth and left fielder Mel Hall threw out a Toronto runner at the plate in the bottom of the inning as the New York Yankees edged the Blue Jays 5-4.

White Sox 7, Tigers 6

Chicago stretched its home

winning streak to 13 games as Carlton Fisk had four hits for the 13th time in his career and drove in four runs.

Orioles 5, Rangers 2

Rookie Bob Milacki won for the first time in exactly a month, scattering seven hits in 8 1-3 innings as Baltimore won for only the third time in 17 games and continuing its domination of Texas ace Nolan Ryan.

Brewers 5, Angels 2

Teddy Higuera pitched a five-hitter for his first complete game of the season and fourth straight victory as Milwaukee ended California's three-game winning streak.

Twins 6, Royals 4

Kent Hrbek's three-run homer with two out in the seventh inning completed Minnesota's comeback from a 4-0 deficit. Hrbek hit a 2-2 pitch from reliever Jeff Montgomery into the upper deck in right field for his 16th home run.

Results

American League

Boston 10

New York 3

Chicago 2

Baltimore 5

Milwaukee 6

Minnesota 7

Seattle 11

National League

San Diego 4

Los Angeles 2

Pittsburgh 4

Houston 7

Cincinnati 2

New York 3

Philadelphia 7

St. Louis 2

Cleveland 3

Toronto 2

Denver 1

Texas 0

California 1

Kansas City 6

Oakland 5

National League

San Diego 4

Los Angeles 2

Pittsburgh 2

Houston 1

Cincinnati 0

New York 3

Philadelphia 7

St. Louis 2

Leading placings

American League

Boston 10

New York 3

Chicago 2

Baltimore 5

Milwaukee 6

Minnesota 7

Seattle 11

National League

San Diego 4

Los Angeles 2

Pittsburgh 2

Houston 1

Cincinnati 0

New York 3

Philadelphia 7

St. Louis 2

Drivers' standings

1. Mikael Ericsson (Sweden) Lancia Delta 1.7: 00:00 (seconds); 2. Alessandro Fiorio (Italy) Lancia Delta 1.7:08:26; 3. Jorge Recalde (Argentina) Lancia Delta 1.7:19:42; 4. Georg Fischer (Austria) Audi 100 Quattro, 7:42:10; 5. Ernesto Soto (Argentina) Renault 18 GT, 7:48:25; 6. Fernando Stella (Argentina) Renault 18 GT, 7:56:42; 7. Gustavo Treli (Uruguay) Lancia Delta 1.7:58:01; 8. Juan Travero (Argentina) Renault 18 GT, 7:59:57; 9. Jorge Bescham (Argentina) Fiat Regata, 8:11:28; 10. Elio Fuchsler (Brazil) Toyota Celica, 17:01.

1. Massimo Biasion (Italy) Lancia Delta 1.6: 00:00 (seconds); 2. Didier Auriol (France) Peugeot 205; 3. Christian Carlson (Sweden) Mazda 323, 40:40; 4. Alessandro Fiorio (Italy) Lancia Delta 1.4: 40:40; 5. Mikael Ericsson (Sweden) Lancia Delta 1.7: 30:40; 6. Sigi Blomqvist (Sweden) Ford Sierra, Cosworth, 20: points; 7. Jukka Kankunen (Finland) Toyota, 20: points; 8. Jorge Recalde (Argentina) Lancia Delta 1.7: 20: points; 9. Georg Fischer (Austria) Audi Quattro, 20: points; 10. Marc Duez (Belgium) Toyota Celica, 17:01.

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Ministers trying to avoid boycott

CANBERRA, Aug 6. (Reuters): Eight foreign ministers will discuss tomorrow a plan to save next year's Commonwealth Games from boycotts, particularly by African states protesting over a planned tour of South Africa by rebel English cricketers.

The plan to save the Games, to be held in Auckland, New Zealand, in January, has been drawn up for discussion among Commonwealth foreign ministers meeting to talk about ways to tighten economic sanctions against South Africa.

"We are worried about the possibility of a Games boycott," said Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark, chairman of the three-day meeting, also to be attended by Australia, Guyana, India, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

"I hope we can begin discussion of some measures which are designed principally to strengthen the institution of the Commonwealth Games. But I think they might also have the effect of making the Games seem valuable enough that the threat of boycott might decline," Clark told reporters.

He declined to reveal the contents of the plan but said he expected it to be ready for approval by the full Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Malaysia in October.

Clark said that in essence it would involve lesser developed members of the Commonwealth, a grouping of nearly 50 former British colonies and dominions, receiving financial and technical aid to become more involved in participating in the Games.

"It is harder for developing countries to fund them or to set in place the expertise I think we can do something about that to make sure the Games become practical for a wide range of countries of the Commonwealth," Clark said.

He said he had already discussed the plan with other foreign ministers, including New Zealand's Russell Marshall, who will be attending the Canberra meeting as an observer, along with Malaysia.

Developing countries staged a mass boycott of the previous Games, at Edinburgh in 1986, over Britain's refusal to tighten economic sanctions, which Britain felt would harm blacks in South Africa more than whites.

British authorities have denounced the rebel English cricket tour, which includes many of the country's top players and will take place over the next two South African seasons. It has raised the prospect of another boycott.

BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Westminster System-17 Bridge Club game played at the Regency Palace on July 30:
1. Nahil Akeel & Narendra Shah; 2. Laila Merati & Adly Tabb; 3. Ezzeldin & Sherin Bassam.

Results of the Hubara Bridge Club game played on July 29:
N/S
1. Ezzeldin & Sherin Bassam; 2. Nahil Akeel & Narendra Shah; 3. Rita Giacola & Mohammed El Baz

EW
1. Nazareth & Java; 2. Diab & Ibrahim; 3. Beatrice Pereira & Aubrey D'Souza

Lansford takes Rams past 49ers

Japanese enjoy American football game



Green (right) runs with the ball past the 49er pack. (Reuters wirephoto)

More French players join S. Africa tour

BAYONNE, France, Aug 6. (Reuters): French rugby union captain Pierre Berbizier and centre Philippe Sella have joined Laurent Rodriguez and Franck Mesnel in accepting invitations to join a world team tour of South Africa.

Scrum-half Berbizier and Sella announced their decisions to play in the controversial tour to mark the South African Rugby Board's (SARB) centenary celebrations after a meeting here yesterday.

Sources said on Friday that Rodriguez and fly-half Mesnel

had accepted their invitations. All four plan to travel to South Africa as individuals along with three officials and two former national team captains.

The quartet are the first to confirm their participation in the tour, which begins on August 19 and which has been shrouded in secrecy.

French Rugby Federation officials said around 40 French players, referees, and former captains were invited by the SARB to attend the centenary celebrations.

Invitations have also been

issued to players in England, Scotland, Wales and Australia and former British Lions captain Willie John McBride has been invited to manage the party.

Number eight Rodriguez defended his participation in the tour by saying: "I don't see why 80,000 or 100,000 French can go to South Africa each year without any problem, but when I decide to go in a personal capacity, on the invitation of friends, it becomes problem."

"I'll go there as a tourist to visit friends for some days and if these friends propose a game of rugby

to me, I cannot refuse," he added.

Sella and Berbizier, who both play for Agen, said they would travel separately. "We don't want to deny the team two of its strong players at the beginning of the championship," Sella said.

Referees Francis Palmaire, Jean-Pierre Bonnet and Rene Hourquet will also travel along with Christian Darou and Robert Paparemborde, former French captains who have led teams against South Africa in the past.

TOKYO, Aug 6. (AP): Mike Lansford's 29-yard field goal gave the Los Angeles Rams a dramatic 16-13 overtime victory against the San Francisco 49ers today, delighting a spirited crowd of curious Japanese pre-season football fans.

The kick, made 49ers rookie head coach George Seifert a loser in his first game replacing Bill Walsh, who coached the 49ers to three Super Bowl victories in 10 years, including last season.

Robert Delpino rushed three times for 24 yards in the Rams' game-winning 51-yard scoring drive, which followed a 24-yard punt return by Thomas Henley in only the second National Football League game on Asian soil and the first in 13 years.

Gaston Green rushed 28 times for 161 yards for the Rams and was named the American Bowl's Most Valuable Player.

A sellout Tokyo Dome crowd of 43,000 fans, taking shelter from typhoon rains drenching the city, enthusiastically watched the two teams' pre-season opener along with a nation-wide television audience in both Japan and the US. Tickets ranged from \$35 to \$211 and scalpers were getting twice that outside the dome.

The mostly young crowd greeted the opening kickoff with an excited roar and applauded every good play, and a few bad ones, as they munched on such un-traditional football fare as fried octopus and sushi.

They loudly cheered every pass completed by the 49ers' Joe Montana, widely known here for his "magic pass" that won the Super Bowl last January. They shouted their approval for a broken-field scramble of 41 yards by Montana's backup, Steve Young, and a 47-yard pass from the Rams' Mark Ferrmann to Mike Williams. They laughed at fumbles and dropped passes and "oohed" at big-screen replays.

"This is 'Kokko-U' (cool)," enthused Yoshiaki Fumada, a 17-year-old high school senior wearing a Rams jersey and cap. "Lots of power and the uniforms look cool."

Terry Greer recovered a second-quarter fumble in the end zone after Terence Flager's 13-yard run and Mike Cofer kicked field goals of 33 and 39 yards to give the 49ers a 13-6 halftime lead.

Los Angeles' Mike Lansford matched each of Cofer's first-half field goals with kicks of 32 and 25 yards.

Both teams' first units came out midway through the second period, and the stars familiar to the Japanese played solidly. Montana completed 8 of 13 passes for 81 yards. Super Bowl MVP Jerry Rice caught two passes for 23 yards. Roger Craig carried four times for 25 yards and Rams' starting quarterback Jim Everett was 5 for 9 for 69 yards and an interception.

The Rams' goal-line defense stopped San Francisco at the 1-yard line when Frank Stamps recovered Flager's fumble with 2:41 left in the third quarter.

The Robert Delpino capped a 93-yard drive by pounding into the left side of the end zone to tie the game at 13 with 8:18 left in the fourth period.

The only other NFL game in Asia was in Tokyo in 1976 when St Louis beat San Diego 20-10. Japanese sponsors hope the success of this event will translate into an annual game.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Stollmeyer shot

PORTE-OF-SPAIN, Aug 6. (AP): Former West Indies cricket captain Jeffrey Stollmeyer was released in stable condition today after undergoing surgery for gunshot wounds suffered during what police said was an armed robbery at his home. Stollmeyer, 70, who led the West Indies and Trinidad and Tobago teams in the 1950s and 1960s, was shot twice in the leg, side and back, according to police reports. His wife was also injured in the shooting, but there was no word on her condition.

Sanchez wins

KITZBUHEL, Austria, Aug 6. (AP): Ecuador's Sanchez of Spain defeated Marin Janic of Argentina 7-6, 6-1, 2-6, 3-2 today to take the \$350,000 Austrian Open Grand Prix tennis tournament.

Cane triumphs

BASTAD, Sweden, Aug 6. (AP): Paolo Cane of Italy edges Bruno Oresser of Yugoslavia 7-5, 7-6, 6-3 today to win the \$300,000 Swedish Open tennis championships.

Hall of Fame

CANTON, Ohio, Aug 6. (Reuters): Four superstars of the game, including Pittsburgh Steelers standouts Terry Bradshaw and Mel Blount, were inducted into the pro football Hall of Fame yesterday.

Norwood best

WIENER NEUSTADT, Austria, Aug 6. (AP): Lori Norwood of the United States won the 2-kilometer (1.24-mile) cross-country run yesterday at the women's 9th World Modern Pentathlon Championships and replaced Tatjana Chernetskaia of the Soviet Union in the top spots in individual ratings.

Gold medals

LAGOS, Aug 6. (Reuters): Nigerian women athletes won three gold medals on the second day of the African Championships yesterday. Lori Norwood of the United States won the 2-kilometer (1.24-mile) cross-country run yesterday at the women's 9th World Modern Pentathlon Championships and replaced Tatjana Chernetskaia of the Soviet Union in the top spots in individual ratings.

Record bld

BRUSSELS, Aug 6. (Reuters): Sweden's Patrick Stoeberg made three unsuccessful attempts to break the world high jump record of 244 metres at the European Cup Grand Prix athletics finals yesterday.

Scandinavian Open

DROTTNINGHOLM, Sweden, Aug 6. (Reuters): Britain's Roma Rafferty is set to go top of the European money list after a record-equalling 64 in yesterday's third round of the \$540,000 Scandinavian Open. Nine birdies on the Drottningholm course helped him to a 13-under-par total of 203, two ahead of Scottish Open champion Mike Allister of the United States, round in 67.

Queen's Cup

NARITA, Japan, Aug 6. (UPI): Second-round leader Yuko Matsushita was declared winner of the \$4 million yen (\$240,000) Queen's Cup golf tournament as its third and final round was rained today.

Danish player

ZUG, Switzerland, Aug 6. (UPI): Former Danish soccer international Lars Lunde, on a comeback trial after suffering brain damage in a car accident two years ago, scored a hat-trick for FC Zug in a 4-3 win over Glarus in a Swiss Second Division match yesterday. Lunde is on a free loan from West German League champion Bayern Munich.

Grand Prix

BUDAPEST, Aug 6. (UPI): After a three-weeks recess, the Mobil Track and Field Grand Prix resumes Aug 6 in Budapest with one of five meets leading up to the \$763,000 final Sept 1 in Monte Carlo, Monaco.

Admiral's Cup

COWES, Isle of Wight, Aug 6. (UPI): Britain has been made a 2-1 favourite to win the Admiral's Yachting Cup six-race series. The final event, the grueling 605-mile fastnet race, started today with an international fleet of 42.

British GP

DONINGTON PARK, England, Aug 6. (Reuters): Kevin Schwantz of the United States, riding a Suzuki, won the British 500cc motor cycle Grand Prix yesterday. Meanwhile, Spanish rider Sito Pons retained his 250cc World Championship title by winning the Grand Prix for the second successive year.

Hatid Ligaya protest

THE Hatid Ligaya-Abu Ghosh women's volleyball team has protested against the decision of the Palaro Volleyball Tournament to declare their team as losers and Al Rashed as winners of the match scheduled to have been played last Friday afternoon.

According to the Hatid Ligaya squad, the game had been initially scheduled for 12:30 pm on Friday but on their request the time had been changed to 3:00 pm.

The Hatid Ligaya players, who are all nurses and had to change for the game, were late for the 3:00 pm match and Buddy Patungan declared Al Rashed winners by default.

According to one of the officials, Patungan replied: "Naiinip na mga manonood" (the people are tired of waiting). He did not allow the game to take place.

Hatid Ligaya have launched an official protest against this decision with the Technical Committee which is scheduled to meet this afternoon to consider the appeal.



Boomerang

A photographer ducks as a boomerang whistles over his head during the West German Championships yesterday in West Berlin. West German Boomerang National Club is the biggest in the world. (Reuters wirephoto)



ANNOUNCEMENT

ANNOUNCEMENT
SALMIA announces that it has
been granted the license to sell
the following products:
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